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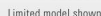
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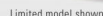
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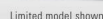
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## Raptors coming to Halifax for training camp

PAGE 33

# MORE INPUT ON NOVA CENTRE

DEVELOPER SAYS DOWNTOWN PROJECT MORE THAN JUST A CONVENTION CENTRE

PAGE 3



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# GAMES ON!

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## Avenger welcomed

Vintage aircraft arrives to its new home at the Shearwater Aviation Museum

PAGE 6

## Comedy invasion

Even three of Hollywood's funniest guys can't save The Watch from its clunker of a script

PAGE 21

## Premiers want sitdown with PM

They're extending an invitation to Stephen Harper to discuss the nation's economy

PAGE 4



Clockwise, from left: Cyclist Ryder Hesjedal, hurdler Phylcia George, diver Alexandre Despatie, diver Emilie Heymans, shot putter Dylan Armstrong, soccer player Christine Sinclair, heptathlete Jessica Zelinka and swimmer Brent Hayden. Olympic Games coverage, pages 36-39. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID VAN DYKE; EMILIE HEYMANS PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS; ALL OTHER PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



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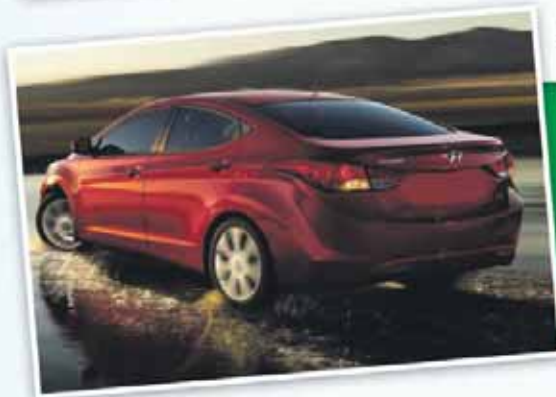


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## Pride of Halifax. Thousands expected at Saturday's parade

Haligonians should plan on sharing the streets with more than 100,000 people as 111 floats are scheduled to parade through the downtown core on Saturday afternoon, Halifax Pride organizers say.

This is the 25th anniversary for Halifax Pride and chair Krista Snow advised people to stake out their viewing spots well before the popular parade starts.

It's scheduled to begin around Cornwallis and Upper Water streets at 1:30 p.m. and will end at Ahern Avenue at 3 p.m.

"People better bring their lawn chair and get there early, or they're going to be 15 people deep," Snow said.

This will be Pride's biggest parade yet.

Halifax police are urging residents to avoid driving downtown on Saturday afternoon. Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said streets will be blocked off as the parade progresses.

"Expect delays, but motorists also have to be watching out for pedestrians, and pedestrians have to be sure they use the proper crosswalks," he said.

As well this weekend, as Halifax Pride comes to a close, the Garrison Grounds will host dance parties on Friday and Saturday nights.

Pride has teamed with Wet Spot to organize Saturday's closing ceremony dance party, and fireworks will go off at about 10 p.m. Go to [halifaxpride.ca](http://halifaxpride.ca) for full event details.

KATE HOWELL/FOR METRO



Joe Ramia says the Nova Centre will create jobs and act "as a catalyst for economic growth." JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

## More to Nova Centre than a convention hall: Ramia

**Ideas wanted.** Eight more public sessions about project to be held around province in coming months



JENNIFER TAPLIN  
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

Providing context and correcting misconceptions were on the agenda on Thursday night at the second public consultation on the Nova Centre at Pier 20 in Halifax.

Developer Joe Ramia, Scott Ferguson of Trade Centre Ltd., HRM planner Andy Fillmore and architect Noel Fowler each spoke to the audience of more than 80 people.

### Building a better convention centre

"The real challenge as we go through this is how do we accommodate such huge spaces?"

Architect Noel Fowler

"Most of us have only heard about the convention centre, but there's a lot more to this project than the convention centre," Ramia said.

He reminded the crowd that the financial centre will create many jobs and the entire project will act as a "catalyst for economic growth." It will include a hotel, homes and shops.

Ramia touched on the public backlash to the proposed design when it was released, but cautioned those were only suggestions of what it could look like, since designs were

required for the developers to apply for a government partnership. The final design will be unveiled in December.

The heights of the buildings are constrained by view plane and ramparts restrictions from the Citadel, but Ramia said the "look and feel," public space and street-scapes are up for public input.

One suggestion for the convention centre has been to introduce more glass and light, which presents a challenge since the current proposal puts it mostly underground.

"We are looking at how that's possible and how we can come back to you and show you how we can do that," Ramia said.

Fowler said the toughest part about the design of the convention centre is the huge open spaces needed for the ballroom and exhibition floors. He thinks the most popular idea will be to have one floor above ground and the other below.

He also talked about the importance of engaging sidewalks.

"Sidewalks are the living room of a city," he said.

Fowler said if they're not careful about the sidewalk around the Nova Centre, they'll "kill" Argyle Street's sidewalk, too, and it's one of the best in the city.

### Mobile news



Three mischievous bear cubs found themselves in trouble last week after getting stuck in a dumpster. Scan the code to watch their daring escape.

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# Premiers call on Harper for Halifax meeting on economy

**Invitation.** Last First Ministers gathering happened in 2009



**ALEX BOUTILIER**  
alex.boutilier@metronews.ca

Canada's 13 premiers are calling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to meet with them on the state of the national economy.

Premier Darrell Dexter, who is chairing the Council of the Federation meetings in Halifax this week, said if the prime minister doesn't accept their invitation, an "alternative" will be sought.

"We're going make the offer, we'll see what he has to say, and if not, we'll have an appropriate response," Dexter told reporters Thursday.

"If (Harper) says no, there will have to be an alternative."

When asked what that alternative may be, Dexter said he considers this invitation to be the beginning of the conversation, not the end.

The recent reluctance for Canada's 22nd prime minister to meet with the premiers as a group has been an

## Drugs in bulk to save money

Canada's premiers and territorial leaders have agreed to buy generic drugs together in an effort to save health care costs.

The premiers released a report Thursday that lists ways of saving money while delivering services they say will make the health system more efficient.

One of the measures they have agreed to implement is to buy three to five generic drugs in bulk.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, who co-wrote the report with Premier Robert Ghiz of Prince Edward Island, said those drugs would be identified in the fall and the provinces and territories would begin buying them next spring.

The premiers also agreed to examine clinical practice guidelines throughout Canada to determine whether certain surgeries may be unnecessary, thereby saving the provinces and territories money, Wall said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

underlying narrative at this year's Council of the Fed-



Premier Darrell Dexter, right, at Thursday's premier meetings in Halifax. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

eration meetings. Dexter, as well as some of his counterparts, have bemoaned the Conservatives approach to the dealing with the provinces — an approach they say is evidenced by the re-

cent unilateral decision on health care transfers.

Nova Scotia's premier said he was hopeful the prime minister would accept this invitation, which would make it the first First Minis-

ters meeting since 2009.

"He has 13 willing partners who want to construct and ensure a successful Canadian economy," Dexter said. "We think that's a good reason to come."

The meeting, which would be held in Halifax and co-hosted by Alberta Premier Allison Redford and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, is being planned for late November.

## Regional venture capital plan remains on backburner

Almost two years after Premier Darrell Dexter floated the idea, the regional venture capital plan remains on the backburner for two of four Atlantic provinces.

On the second day of Council of the Federation meetings in Halifax, Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Kathy Dunderdale said her province has no interest in joining the fund at the moment.

"We've decided at this point in time not to opt into the fund," Dunderdale said Thursday. "We have other priorities at home at the moment, so our focus is going to

be there."

The initiative, first mentioned by Dexter in November 2010, was aimed at getting all four Atlantic provinces to commit \$15 million for a regional fund aimed at high-risk, high-potential start-up companies.

Prince Edward Island Premier Robert Ghiz was not available for comment. A representative from his office said no final decision has been made, but the idea is not a priority at this current juncture.

Newfoundland already partially funds a venture capital outfit, the Newfoundland and Labrador Angel Network. P.E.I.

### Moving forward

For his part, Premier Darrell Dexter said Nova Scotia and New Brunswick plan to move forward with the initiative alone. A search for a private-sector manager for the fund, launched in September 2011, is ongoing.

funded a private venture capital fund, P.E.I. Capital, in 1996 to the tune of \$300,000, with an additional \$900,000 loan from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO



Alberta Premier Alison Redford, Prince Edward Island Premier Robert Ghiz and British Columbia Premier Christy Clark, left to right. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Table on Bluenose II made from materials collected across Canada

When Nova Scotia's historic Bluenose II sets sail it will carry a table made with items from across Canada.

The table was built with materials from every province and territory, including a gold nugget from Yukon, red spruce from Nova Scotia and granite from Nunavut.

It hasn't yet been installed on the ship, which is still undergoing extensive restorations, but Canada's premiers and territorial leaders dedicated the table at their annual Council of the Federation meetings.

The table was built in Lunenburg, by Colin O'Toole of Covey Island Boatworks. Other materials in the table include red oak from Prince Edward Island, sugar maple from New Brunswick, black walnut from Ontario, white birch from Saskatchewan and Douglas fir from British Columbia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Newfoundland won't be 'bullied' by group: Dunderdale

Premier Kathy Dunderdale said her province will not be "bullied" by a self-identified native group threatening to delay or halt the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project.

On Thursday, the Newfoundland and Labrador premier said she will not negotiate with the NunatuKavut group, which is not officially recognized by the federal government, on the \$6.8 billion project.

"Newfoundland and Labrador is not going to be bullied into any kind of agreement with anybody," Dunderdale told reporters.

"Mr. Russell and his group need to first finish their conversation with the federal government. If they are given status by the federal government and are entitled to a land claim, we will sit with them and negotiate a land claim in the same way

we have done with the Inuit of Labrador and the Innu of Labrador."

Dunderdale was responding to comments made by Todd Russell, the former Liberal MP who now heads the NunatuKavut in southern Labrador.

Russell said Thursday that his preference was to negotiate with Newfoundland to share in the benefits of the project. But he reiterated earlier comments

that his group is considering all possible options — including legal challenges and actually physically preventing the development.

"I'll be very blunt on this: I will do what it takes. If that means on the ground action, if that means legal action, if that means going to the investors ... we will do that," Russell said on Thursday.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO



Kathy Dunderdale  
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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A Grumman Avenger aircraft purchased by the Shearwater Aviation Museum Foundation lands at 12 Wing Shearwater on Thursday. The plane will be added to their aviation collection. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

#### Facts about the aircraft

- Avengers joined the U.S. navy in 1945 and sold to the Canadian navy in 1950.
- Grumman Avengers flew from the Shearwater Naval Air Station and the Halifax-based aircraft carrier HMCS Magnificent from 1950 to 1960.
- Avengers have three-person cockpits.
- This particular aircraft, 53610, served at CFB Shearwater at 1955 until 1957 when it was sent to Toronto. It left naval service in 1958.
- It was bought and sold several times and primarily used for aerial spraying.
- In 1991, it was reconfigured as a water bomber for forest fire suppression in New Brunswick.
- On July 9, 2002, former U.S. president George Bush Sr. signed his name on this Avenger just above the starboard crew door entry.
- The Shearwater Aviation Museum Foundation purchased the aircraft for \$35,000 and gifted it to the museum.
- The aircraft will be refurbished as RCN Avenger 53610 in navy colours.
- Shearwater already has an Avenger on display — one that crashed into the Bedford Basin in 1953, but it is a static display.
- The 53610 Avenger will be the museum's "runner." Although it won't fly again, museum staff will start up the engine and run the propeller for special events.

# Joyous homecoming for Avenger

**Classic.** Aircraft will be repainted into its former navy colours in coming months



JENNIFER TAPLIN  
jennifertaplin@metronews.ca

An Avenger — but not Thor or Iron Man — landed with a roar in Shearwater on Thursday.

The plane, which hasn't touched a 12-Wing runway

since the late 1950s, arrived to applause from a crowd including several former airmen and mechanics. It's the latest acquisition for the Shearwater Aviation Museum.

"I missed that sound," said Ron Beard, a former Avenger mechanic who flew in this particular plane three times in the 1950s. "I lived just off the end of the runway for years and just to hear it coming and going all the time was great. And when they were gone, they're gone."

Avengers were primar-

#### Familiar roar

"I missed that sound." Ron Beard, former Avenger mechanic

ily used for anti-submarine warfare and for operations off the aircraft carrier HMCS Magnificent.

Naval pilot Jim Stegen remembers the Avengers well — he ditched one once. He flew Avengers from Shearwater from 1956-59.

"We were at the rocket and bombing range at Chazetcook and I dropped a bomb and pulled up and there was

no noise. The engine stopped and I was too low to restart so I went into the water," he said.

He said the Avenger was pretty heavy on the controls, but it was a stable, reliable aircraft since it was originally intended to be a torpedo bomber by the Americans in the Second World War.

The last time he sat in one was over 50 years ago.

"It will be pleasant to see an old friend," he said, minutes before it touched down. "Especially since it's going to the museum."

The aircraft was last employed by Forest Protection Ltd. in New Brunswick for fire suppression. The museum arranged for the purchase of the Avenger in part through a military museum in Gagetown that is not as interested in naval aircraft. In thanks for its assistance, the Gagetown museum will receive a CF-101 Voodoo aircraft from Shearwater.

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## Capital Health. Blood collection to be back up and running Friday

Capital Health was unable to collect blood on Thursday because of what it called an unforeseen delay with maintenance on its database.

Maintenance on its information software system was supposed to be done overnight, but the updates took longer than expected, said Capital Health spokesperson John Gillis. "It was obviously inconvenient for people who did show up and have to come back another day. We apologize to those people; things should be back to normal by (Friday)," he said.

Typically, Capital Health offers daily drop-in blood collection services at eight different locations around HRM and

### By the numbers

# 1,200

The average number of people Capital Health says uses the drop-in blood collection service daily.

surrounding areas, including Windsor, Musquodoboit Harbour and Sheet Harbour.

Gillis said they were still able to perform urgent work that was required Thursday, such as blood work needed for cancer related tests and for determining the right dosage of medication.

KATE HOWELL/FOR METRO

## StatsCan. Nova Scotians' earnings outpace average

Nova Scotians' weekly earnings grew faster than the national average from May 2011 to May 2012, according to a new report from Statistics Canada.

Over that time period,

average weekly earnings jumped to \$793.73, an increase of 4.4 per cent. Month over month, average weekly earnings in the province increased 1.8 per cent. **METRO**



## Tall ships' next stop

Large crowds mulled about the waterfront in Port Hawkesbury on Thursday, taking in the Tall Ships Nova Scotia 2012 festival under clear skies. Several ships arrived in Port Hawkesbury after spending five days in Halifax. **STEVE WADDEN/CAPE BRETON POST**

## Africville. Museum will be officially unveiled during reunion weekend

The exhibits of the Africville Museum will be opened to the public on Saturday, in the midst of the Africville Reunion weekend.

The museum inside the replica of the Seaview United Baptist Church will be officially unveiled to the public after a ceremony at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Members of the Africville community had an opportunity to tour the exhibits earlier this year.

The interpretive centre was supposed to fully open last year, but it didn't happen due to construction delays. A ribbon cutting was held for the building last September, but it wasn't open at that time.

### Africville Reunion

- The reunion weekend starts Friday with gospel music, family camping and several events.

Community members come together every year to remember the African-Nova Scotian community established there in the mid-1800s. The community was evicted in the 1960s by the city to make room for the construction of the MacKay Bridge.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

### Coronation Avenue

## Man faces drug charges after home search

A 26-year-old man is facing drug charges after police executed a search in the 100 block of Coronation Avenue on Wednesday

night. Just after 10:30 p.m., police went to the Halifax home and seized cocaine, steroids, cash and drug paraphernalia.

The 26-year-old was arrested without incident and is due in court in September charged with two counts of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. **METRO**



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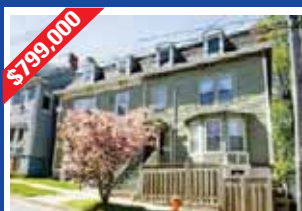
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# Shooting victims with no insurance face big medical bills

**Colorado.** Unknown number of injured still face a long recovery and associated costs

Some of the victims fighting for their lives after being wounded in last week's Colorado theatre rampage may face enormous medical bills without the benefit of health insurance.

The U.S. doesn't have universal health coverage, though hospitals are required by federal law to stabilize patients during emergencies without regard to their ability to pay.

The Obama administration's health-care overhaul would cover millions more uninsured, but Republicans strongly object to its cost.

Members of the public have contributed nearly \$2 million US to help victims, including the Warner Bros. studio that released the Batman movie that was showing when the gunman opened fire. But it's not clear how much of that money will cover medical expenses.

One victim's family is already raising money online. And three of the five hos-



Bonnie Kate Pourciau, 18, a victim of the Aurora theatre shooting, speaks from her hospital bed Wednesday, alongside her mother, Kathleen, and father, Trace. ANDY CROSS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

pitals treating victims said Wednesday they will limit or completely wipe out medical bills.

An unknown number of the victims, however, still face a long recovery and the associated medical costs

without health insurance.

Nearly one in three Coloradans, or about 1.5 million, either have no health insurance or have coverage that is inadequate, according to a 2011 report by The Colorado Trust, a health-

care advocacy group.

The highest uninsured rate is among adults between 18 and 34. Many victims are in that age group.

Among the uninsured victims is a 23-year-old aspiring comic Caleb Medley, who is

## Quoted

**"Many of these people, I assume, will need prolonged and expensive rehabilitation after their immediate injuries are dealt with, and that seems precisely what hospitals today are less and less willing to cover out of their own funds."**

Dr. Howard Brody, director of the Institute for Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston

in critical condition with a head wound. His wife, Katie, gave birth to their first child on Tuesday.

His family and friends said they have set a goal of raising \$500,000 to cover his hospital bills and other expenses and were more than halfway there Wednesday.

Children's Hospital Colorado announced it would use donations and its charity care fund to cover the medical expenses of the uninsured. "We are committed to supporting these families as they heal," said a statement from the hospital, which treated six shooting victims.

HealthOne, which owns the Medical Center of Aurora and Swedish Medical Center, also says it will limit or eliminate charges based on patients' individual circumstances. Those hospitals have treated 22 shooting victims. However, the company cautioned its policy may not apply to all doctors working in its hospitals.

The other two hospitals, Denver Health Medical Center and University of Colorado Hospital, where Medley is, wouldn't say whether they would assist shooting victims. However, they provided a combined \$750 million in free care in 2011.

The key issue is what comes after the current hospital care, said Dr. Howard Brody, director of the Institute for the Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and a frequent critic of excessive medical costs.

"Many of these people, I assume, will need prolonged and expensive rehabilitation after their immediate injuries are dealt with, and that seems precisely what hospitals today are less and less willing to cover out of their own funds, and no law requires that they do so, as far as I am aware," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Theatre shootout scene delays film's release



Joseph Gordon-Levitt as John Blake is shown in a scene from *The Dark Knight Rises*. CONTRIBUTED/WARNER BROS.

Warner Bros. has moved the release of *Gangster Squad* to January after the film's climactic cinema shootout scene drew comparisons to the Aurora, Colo., shooting.

*Gangster Squad* chronicles a bloody 1940s battle between Los Angeles police and mobsters. It culminates in a scene where gangsters shoot automatic weapons into a crowded movie theatre from behind the screen.

The film is expected to be reshot and edited. A spokesman for Warner Bros. de-

clined to comment on how the film would be altered.

*Gangster Squad* had been planned for a Sept. 7 release. The postponement means that *Gangster Squad* won't be eligible for Academy Awards consideration this year, shifting from a plum fall release to a month often considered a dumping ground.

It's a blow for an anticipated movie with a starry cast. Directed by Ruben Fleischer, it stars Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone and Josh Brolin.

The trailer for the film,

which included footage from the movie theatre scene, was pulled from theatres and the Internet after the Colorado shooting at a screening of *The Dark Knight Rises*.

Shot at the famous Grauman's Chinese Theater in Los Angeles, the scene is a centerpiece to the film, meaning reshoots may be extensive.

Though the *Gangster Squad* trailer had been paired with *The Dark Knight Rises* (also a Warner release), it didn't play in the Aurora

theatre where a gunman killed 12 people last week.

This is the second time this year a high-profile studio movie has had its release altered by news events.

Twentieth Century Fox's *The Watch*, which is out Friday, had its title changed from *Neighborhood Watch* after the Trayvon Martin killing in Florida. The film's trailer and promotional materials were also adjusted to distance the film from the incident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Washington

### Gun debate shot

The White House made clear Thursday that new legislation on gun control will not be on the political agenda this election year, as U.S. President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney engaged in their most extensive discussions on the

issue since last week's Colorado theatre shootings.

Their comments revived a sensitive debate that has faded to the background in national politics and been virtually nonexistent in this year's close presidential race. While Obama called for tougher background checks on Americans trying to buy a gun, he is not pushing for new gun-control legislation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Omar Khadr

### Hopes of avoiding a trial were denied

Two years before the plea deal that was supposed to mean his quick exit from Guantanamo Bay, Omar Khadr offered to plead guilty to terrorism charges in Canada in exchange for a relatively lenient sentence and speedy transfer to

Canada, documents show.

The offer was one of two proposals Khadr's lawyers put to military commission authorities in 2008 in hopes of avoiding a trial. The convening authority rejected both out of hand. Ottawa's subsequent delay in allowing his transfer to a Canadian prison to serve out his sentence has drawn fierce criticism from Khadr's supporters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Tattoo trouble

### Woman loses strip-search fight

A Montreal woman who was strip-searched by border agents looking for a pink tattoo has lost her legal bid for compensation — and hope for changes to vetting procedures.

It's the latest twist in Sylvie Menard's three-year fight. In a recent judgment,

the Quebec Superior Court dismissed her challenge, saying authorities had reasonable justification to act as they did. The saga began in April 2009 when Menard, who had never run afoul of the law, flew home from a Mexico vacation to an unsettling encounter with airport authorities. A computer said her name matched that of a suspected criminal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS





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This citizen journalism image taken on Tuesday shows bodies of Syrians killed during their funeral procession in the suburb of Daraya, Damascus, Syria. SHAAM NEWS NETWORK, SNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Palestinians continue to be caught in Syria crossfire

**Catch-22.** Some refugees choosing to fight with rebels despite Palestinian leaders' efforts to keep them out of conflict

**Top official**

"I fear that in the next stage the camps and the youth will be pulled into the internal conflict."

Fathi Ardatt, the Palestine Liberation Organization's top official in Lebanon

Like other communities sucked into Syria's widening civil war, the Yarmouk neighbourhood in Damascus has seen death and destruction. Soldiers and snipers have gunned down demonstrators. Some protesters have taken up arms to fight back.

But there's one key difference: Most of Yarmouk's residents are not Syrian citizens.

They are Palestinian refugees.

Since the start of the unrest, Syria's half-million Palestinians have struggled to remain on the sidelines. They've said they have little to gain and much to lose by taking sides in the fight between President Bashar Assad's regime and the armed rebels seeking to end his family's four-decade rule.

But young Palestinian refugees, enraged by this month's mounting violence and moved by Arab Spring calls for great

er freedoms, are now flooding the streets and even joining the rebels despite efforts by the community's political leadership to keep them out of the conflict.

Violence has struck other Palestinian camps too. More than two-thirds of the 17,500 refugees in the southern city of Daraa fled an attack this month, the UN said. While many have returned, food and medicine are lacking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## U.S. mulls intervention as rebels gain ground

The Obama administration is weighing its options for more direct involvement in the Syrian civil war if the rebels opposing the Assad regime can wrestle enough control to create a safe haven for themselves, U.S. officials said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says it is only a matter of time before the rebels have enough territory and or-

ganization to create such areas.

"More and more territory is being taken," Clinton said this week. "It will eventually result in a safe haven inside Syria, which will then provide a base for further actions by the opposition."

Officials are already starting to brainstorm how a safe zone might allow Washington to step up its assistance, which

has been limited to humanitarian aid and nonlethal equipment such as medical supplies and communications gear.

An American official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. is seeing "increased unity, cohesion and better military performance" among the rebels, including greater effectiveness in co-ordinating attacks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Assad defector**

### Ex-Syrian general visits Turkey

Turkey says the brigadier general who defected from the Syrian regime is on a visit to Ankara.

A Foreign Ministry statement did not specify if Manaf Tlass had yet landed in Turkey, but said Turkish officials were hosting him Thursday night for a special dinner during Ramadan, the Muslim holy fasting month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Warning. Tanks and fighter jets could signal a massacre in Aleppo

The Obama administration is warning of a possible Syrian massacre in the city of Aleppo.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland says the U.S. has "grave concerns" about tanks and fighter jets being used in a densely populated city.

She says thousands of people are spilling out of Alep-

po and calls the onslaught a "desperate" attempt by a government losing control of its country.

Rebels who have been fighting for six days in Syria's commercial capital of three million people are bracing themselves amid reports the government is massing reinforcements to retake the city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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## B.C. landslide. Body of third victim recovered, fourth not yet found

Rescuers have recovered the body of a third victim who died after her family's home was levelled by a huge landslide in a southeastern British Columbia community.

Coroner Lisa LaPointe said 17-year-old Rachel Webber's body was found around supper time Wednesday near the front of what had been her home in the hamlet of John-sons Landing.

LaPointe thanked everyone involved in the search, including volunteers and a forensic analyst who pinpointed the best locations to search in a debris field that covers more than 32 hectares.

The bodies of Webber's 64-year-old father Valentine and her 22-year-old sister Diane were found in the same



Sisters Rachel Webber, left, and Diane Webber in an undated handout photo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

area last week.

The search for Webber resumed Wednesday after rescue crews determined it was safe enough to go into the tiny Kootenay Lake area that was

hit by the slide on July 12 after torrential rain led a mountain to give way.

A 64-year-old German woman named Petra Frehse remains missing and the search for her body has ended.

Despite digging a trench that was seven metres long and 10 metres wide, searchers were still not able to find her body, LaPointe said.

"I'm very sorry that we weren't able to do that for the Frehse family, but where that house was located in the slide field just made it impossible."

Death certificates will be issued for all three members of the Webber family, while an application to presume the death of Frehse will also be submitted, LaPointe said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Access to information. Watchdog wants Tommy Douglas file opened

Canada's information watchdog is joining a seven-year battle to lift the shroud of secrecy over a decades-old intelligence dossier on socialist trailblazer Tommy Douglas.

Information commissioner Suzanne Legault is opposing the federal government's bid to overturn a court order to reconsider its refusal to publicly release much of the Douglas dossier.

Her decision to wade into the fray is something of an about-face for Legault's office.

Initially, her office maintained the government had "properly withheld" information on Douglas from The Canadian Press, which requested the file in 2005 under the Access to Information Act.

The Canadian Press successfully obtained a court order last August for fuller disclosure of the file, but the Harper government is now appealing that ruling.

The appeal is set to be heard on Oct. 3.

Lawyer Paul Champ said it appears the information commissioner's office now regrets having backed the government's decision to heavily censor the Douglas file.

"I think it's fair to say they've seen the error of their ways," said Champ, who is representing Jim Bronskill, a reporter for The Canadian Press, in the case.

Yannick Landry, general counsel for Legault's office, refused to comment on the

### Tommy Douglas

- Douglas was premier of Saskatchewan and the first federal NDP leader.
- RCMP security officers shadowed Douglas from the late 1930s to shortly before his death in 1986.
- The Mounties were interested in his links to the peace movement and the Communist party.

watchdog's apparent change of heart. He said the information commissioner is not delving into the details of the case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Daran Lin breaks down at the urn bearing the remains of his son, Jun Lin, during funeral services Thursday in Montreal. PAUL CHASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Family grieves loss of Jun Lin at funeral service

### Peace

"I have been waiting for this day to come because my son can finally rest in peace in the land that he loves."

Zhigui Du, mother of Jun Lin

**Burial.** Mother of murder victim says she has started to develop sympathy for Magnotta

It's a word the mother of dismembered Chinese student Jun Lin never thought she'd associate with the man charged with murdering her son in brutal fashion.

Sympathy.

Originally, sorrow and anger dominated Zhigui Du's thoughts as she asked herself how such an appalling thing could happen to her son in a kind and peaceful country like Canada.

But as she laid her 33-year-old son to rest Thursday, Du said she has begun to feel sympathy on some level toward a man she before called the "devil."

"Back then, I could only use 'devil' to describe the alleged murderer," said Du, whose son's gruesome murder captured worldwide attention.

"But later on, when I learned more about this suspect

through different news sources, especially about his upbringing, I shockingly discovered my other self who has started to develop sympathy for this person described as 'devil.'"

Du, who was too distraught to attend the funeral itself, made the remarks through an interpreter during a eulogy she gave at a later news conference.

Lin's dismembered torso was found May 29 stuffed in a suitcase dumped outside a Montreal apartment building. Various body parts were found mailed to different parts of the country and in a Montreal park.

Luka Rocco Magnotta has pleaded not guilty to several charges in connection with Lin's death, including a count of first-degree murder.

Any sympathy on Thursday was mixed with a healthy dose of grief and sadness as Lin's

family said their final farewells.

They decided to bury their son's remains in the land he loved, and in the city he loved most.

In an emotional ceremony, Lin's father sobbed openly as he sat in the front row. Before the ceremony, he entered the chamber and clutched his son's urn, crying uncontrollably.

Father Henry Rodriguez, who presided over the funeral, called Lin a loving and considerate son who loved life. His life was ended by an "evil act."

Du looked back fondly on the day her son left China.

"When he left China and came to Canada to study, he wanted us to say goodbye with our smiles," she said.

"And today, I think it's time to wipe our tears and see our son go with smiles on our face."

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# Shower abuse victim goes after Penn State



Left: Former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.  
Right: Former Penn State assistant football coach Mike McQueary.

GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

**Football scandal.** Mystery man says he was the one seen being sexually abused by Sandusky in locker-room as a boy

For months, the identity of the boy who was sexually assaulted in the locker-room showers by Jerry Sandusky was one of the biggest mysteries of the Penn State abuse scandal. Now a man has come forward to claim he was that boy and is threatening to sue the university.

The man's lawyers said Thursday they have gathered "overwhelming evidence" on details of the abuse by Sandusky, the former assistant football coach convicted of using his positions at Penn State and as head of a youth charity to molest boys over a period of 15 years.

Jurors convicted Sandusky last month on 45 sex-abuse counts. Those included offences related to so-called Victim 2 largely on the testimony of Mike McQueary, who was a team graduate assistant at the time and described seeing the shower attack.

"Our client has to live the rest of his life not only dealing with the effects of Sandusky's childhood sexual abuse, but also with the knowledge that many powerful adults, including those at the highest levels of Penn State, put their

## Report blasts officials

A recent report conducted by former FBI director Louis Freeh and commissioned by Penn State criticized top school officials for not attempting to identify Victim 2, saying it showed "a striking lack of empathy."

- It said officials looked the other way because they were afraid of bad publicity.

own interests and the interests of a child predator above their legal obligations to protect him," the lawyers said in a news release.

They did not name their client, and The Associated Press generally does not identify victims of sex crimes without their consent.

The university said it was taking the case seriously but would not comment on the pending litigation.

Penn State now faces an unprecedented \$60-million US fine from the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the prospect of multiple lawsuits by the victims.

The statement from the man's attorneys said Victim 2 suffered "extensive sexual abuse over many years both before and after the 2001 incident Michael McQueary witnessed."

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# Global leaders turning to 'Twiplomacy'

**Twitter.** Study finds that 16 G-20 leaders are using platform for public diplomacy, but China, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia have not joined Twitterverse

Almost two-thirds of world leaders have joined the Twitterverse where President Barack Obama and his tweet on gay marriage is the most popular to date, says a new study.

But the rise in so-called "Twiplomacy" resembles some-

**@BarackObama**

The most-followed account is @BarackObama, which has 17.8 million followers.

- Of those followers, 76 are peers and other governments. Obama rarely sends his own tweets, but when he does he signs them, as he did in one to the first lady on Valentine's Day.

thing of an echo chamber, according to an analysis of 264 government accounts in 125 countries that PR firm Burson-

Marsteller describes as the first-ever global study of world leaders on Twitter.

Some 264 world leaders now have a Twitter account, and researchers believe that 30 of them do their own tweeting. Altogether they have sent more than 350,000 tweets to almost 52 million followers, the study shows.

But about one-third don't follow each other and dozens don't follow any other Twitterers. But that doesn't mean they don't converse. More than nine of every 10 tweets by the Ugandan prime minister and Rwandan president are replies, the study says. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



## Remembering Argentina's famous first lady

A woman touches the tomb of Argentina's late former first lady Maria Eva Duarte de Perón, better known as Evita, at a cemetery in Buenos Aires on Thursday. Evita died of cancer on July 26, 1952 at the age of 33, and on Thursday Argentines commemorated the 60th anniversary of the death of their most famous first lady. **SERGIO**

GOYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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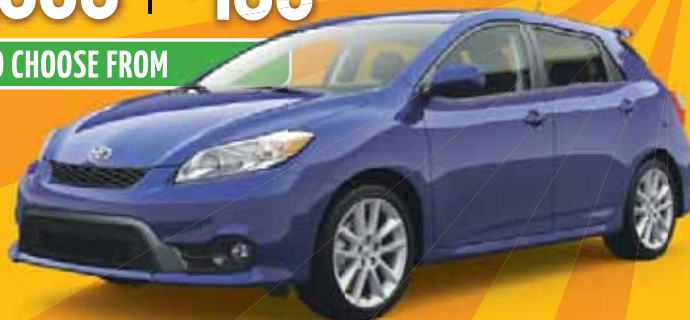
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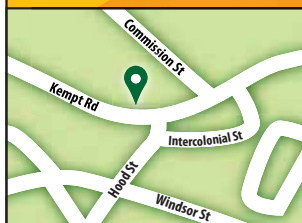
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# Beijing flood's official death toll rises to 77

## Natural disaster.

Authorities reveal grim tally, the first since Sunday, after search was hindered by mudslides

Chinese authorities on Thursday raised Saturday's Beijing storm's death toll to 77 after the public questioned the tally of 37, with some residents even compiling their own totals in a reflection of deep mistrust of the government's handling of the disaster.

The Beijing city government said 77 bodies of victims from Saturday's downpour had been found in the city as of Thursday; 66 of whom have been identified. Nearly half of the victims were found in Fangshan district, a rural commun-



A taxi driver trapped in the flooded streets of Tianjin, China, Thursday.  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ity in the city's mountainous outskirts, the government said on its microblog.

In a rare expression of

humility, Beijing's flood and drought prevention headquarters offered condolences to the families of the victims and pledged that it would "conscientiously sum up and reflect and learn lessons from" the flood, and improve the city's resilience against disasters.

No new death toll figures had been issued since Sunday, the day after Beijing's largest downpour in 61 years overwhelmed drainage systems, swamped downtown underpasses and sent flash floods roiling through the city's outskirts.

Officials have kept a tight lid on information, mindful that failure to cope with the flooding could undermine the country's leadership as it undergoes a once-a-decade transition, with Beijing leaders a part of that reshuffling.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Smoke 'em if you got 'em

Tori, a 15-year-old orangutan, smokes a cigarette inside her cage at Satwa Taru Jurug zoo in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia in this July 6 photo. Indonesian zookeepers have moved the female orangutan with a bad habit of smoking away from visitors who regularly throw lit cigarettes into her cage. Tori has been smoking cigarettes for a decade, mimicking human behaviour by holding them casually between her fingers while visitors watch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Heartland

### U.S. drought intensifying: Report

A new report shows the drought in the U.S. heartland is rapidly intensifying and shows no signs of abating.

The U.S. Drought Monitor report released Thursday shows that the amount of land classified in extreme or

exceptional drought jumped to more than 20 per cent, up seven per cent from last week. More than 63 per cent of the continental U.S. is in some stage of drought, a portion unseen since the Drought Monitor started in 1999.

The drought has sent corn, soybean and other commodity prices soaring in recent weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Commodities

### Dry weather will boost food prices

The U.S. government is projecting the record drought gripping half the country will help push food prices up by three to four per cent next year.

Beef prices are expected to see the biggest jump. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# Most remaining Zellers stores to close their doors

**Hudson's Bay Co.**  
Parent company says running the last 64 locations is no longer viable

Zellers stores may soon join now-defunct Canadian chains as a relic of the retail past after its parent company said Thursday it will close most of the 64 remaining locations, affecting up to 6,400 jobs.

Hudson's Bay Co. — Zellers Inc.'s parent company — has been contemplating what to do with the brand since last year, when it sold the majority of the leases for its 279 discount stores to Target Corp. for \$1.83 billion. Spokeswoman Tiffany Bourré said Zellers is "considering options" for certain locations, including "rebranding some stores" — a determination that has yet to be made.

Zellers, which offers everything from housewares to hosiery, has faced an onslaught of competition from large U.S. retailers in recent years, most notably from Walmart, which

#### Leasehold interests

Target plans to open 125 to 135 stores in Canada. It has purchased the leasehold interests of 189 sites currently operated by Zellers Inc. and it says about \$10 million to \$11 million will be invested to remodel each facility.

- The U.S. retailer is poised to begin opening the first of the stores acquired from Hudson's Bay Co. next year.

has been expanding into a one-stop destination with dry-cleaning services and a full suite of groceries.

Zellers was one of the last remaining large Canadian discount retailers after the Woolco, BiWay and Bargain Harold's brands became extinct years ago. The company said it operates 64 stores that were not acquired by Target, or were already slated for closure.

Zellers has been a key part of the Hudson Bay portfolio

since 1978, emerging as the company's discount retail subsidiary by offering clothing and household items at lower price points. It remained in the HBC fold as the company refocused its efforts on its core retail business in the 1980s and 1990s.

In recent years the company has made efforts to revitalize its Bay stores, hiring former Holt Renfrew executive Bonnie Brooks as chief executive officer, introducing high-end boutique spaces in its Toronto flagship store, and securing the rights to produce uniforms and merchandise for Canada's Olympic athletes.

The sale of Zellers stores to Target has been discussed since at least 2004, when Target was rumoured to be in talks with Hudson's Bay Co. to buy its Zellers stores. HBC has said it plans to use the proceeds from the sale to pay down debt and "spend aggressively" on its other brands, including The Bay and Home Outfitters, as well as Lord & Taylor's in the U.S., adding that an initial public offering of the revamped company is "a very possible scenario."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Consumer training camp?

Apple worker Tiffany White leads Camp Apple at an Apple store in Palo Alto, Calif., Wednesday. At the three-day camp, students ages eight to 12 learn how to shoot their own footage, create an original song in GarageBand on an iPad, and put it all together in iMovie on a Mac. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Google

### Kansas City Internet going warp speed

Google Inc. revealed Thursday what it will charge for its long-awaited, ultra-fast "gigabit" Internet service in Kansas City (about 100 times faster than a basic cable modem): \$70 US per month. The service is intended as a showcase for what's technically possible. Bypassing the local cable and phone companies, Google has spent months and an unknown amount of money pulling its own optical fibre through the Kansas City region.

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#### Market Minute



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## Madoff victims. Trustee hopes to return \$2.4B more

Victims of imprisoned Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme could be getting back more of their stolen money.

Irving Picard, the trustee in charge of liquidating Madoff's assets, is asking a New York court for permission to distribute another \$1.5 billion to \$2.4 billion US to investors who lost money in Madoff's fraudulent investments.

Picard's job is to recover as much money as possible for the victims, and the process has been arduous. Ever since Madoff's firm collapsed, more than three and a half years



Bernard Madoff GETTY IMAGES FILE

ago, the victims who are trying to get their money back have filed lawsuits and made other complaints over how Picard has chosen to distribute the money.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Ford recall. Escape SUV has sticky throttle

Ford is recalling nearly 485,000 Escape and Mavericks to fix sticking gas pedals that can cause crashes.

The worldwide recall affects the 2001 through 2004 model years that are powered by three-litre V-6 engines with cruise control. It comes just over a week after U.S. safety regulators began investigating the small SUVs, which are called Mavericks in Europe.

The recall affects 421,000 Es-

capades in the U.S. The rest are in Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia and some smaller markets.

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received 68 complaints about the problem, including 13 crashes, nine injuries and one death. A teenage girl died when an Escape crashed in Arizona in January.

It's the third recall in two weeks for the Escape.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Talk money before walking down the aisle, experts warn

## Financial footing.

While it's easy to get swept up in the romance of a wedding, marriage is also a contract that comes with financial decisions

Bride-to-be Shannon Fostka's wedding plans don't include a fairy-tale dress or lavish reception — she's done it before and this time around she's pledged to start married life on a sound financial footing.

### Free advice

Sometimes people are embarrassed to talk about their situation if they feel their partner is better off than they are.

- So keep the lines of communication open, don't be judgmental and seek advice from a neutral third party.

After reuniting with fiancé Jeff Stritzel — an old high school friend who has also been married before — through Facebook and dating for about a year, Fostka, a 36-year-old marketing specialist, wants to make sure they're on the same page of the balance book.

While it's easy to get swept up in the romance of a wedding, marriage is also a contract that comes with weighty financial decisions: will you take on each other's debts and assets? Are you going to merge all your money or keep some separate? And how are you going to divvy up bill payments and other responsibilities?

These are the type of questions you need to ask one another before walking down the aisle. Canada's divorce rate is 41 per cent and money is one of the big things couples fight about.

Most importantly, couples should be up front about their situations and have a plan before going in — written if possible, experts say.

Alim Dhanji, a certified financial planner at Assante



Shannon Fostka, who has concerns about how to share finances after she gets married, poses for a photo with her fiancé Jeff Stritzel, at their Toronto home on Monday. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Financial Management, suggests that writing up a budget before getting married can help open a dialogue and bring a person's financial past to light.

If one person is bringing in debt, talk about whether you're willing to take that on, or whether it's better to wait to get married until after that debt is paid.

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# REALITY BITES FOR SULLIED SNOW WHITE



THE LIST  
Paul Sullivan  
Metro

**1** Olympic insecurity. There's about one soldier for every athlete ready to take part in the 2012 London Games. At least I think they're ready. On a visit

to London, U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who organized the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, said the last-minute security issues in London were "disturbing." That prompted U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron to retort that anybody can organize the Olympic Games "in the middle of nowhere." England 1, Tea Party 0.

**2** Love bites. Robert Pattinson is "heartbroken and angry" (says a source) and has moved out of the Beverly Hills home he shared with Kristen Stewart, his Twilight co-star, after she was caught biting someone else's neck. The other party was not a werewolf, but the director of Stewart's latest movie Snow White and the Huntsman — an entirely different kind of predator.

**3** Speaking of bats. Christian Bale, whose Batman series may have inspired James Holmes to allegedly murder a dozen innocent moviegoers, shows he, at least, understands the difference between reality and illusion by turning up at the bedsides of the survivors and attending memorial services for the dead. Holmes, meanwhile, ain't even close: He reportedly keeps asking his jailer how the movie ends. With any luck, he'll spend eternity in hell still wondering.

**4** The war between Alberta and B.C. The nation is mesmerized as the two western-most premiers duke it out over royalties and risk regarding the yet-to-be-approved Enbridge pipeline carrying Alberta oilsands oil across B.C. to port for Asian customers. B.C.'s Christy Clark wants less risk and more royalties; Alberta's Alison Redford says: Bite me! Are we beginning to sense a theme here?

**5** In other CO<sub>2</sub> news, Greenland melts. As in 97 per cent of the ice sheet covering the island. The last time that happened was 1889. On May 29, the temperature at the southern weather station reached 24.8 C, a record. If the whole ice cap melts, sea levels will rise by seven metres. But not to worry, global warming's some kind of elaborate hoax. Easy to say, unless you live on the coast.

**6** In other H<sub>2</sub>O news. Lucky Larry, the 17-pound lobster, has been saved. After surviving anywhere between 70 and 100 years, Lucky Larry was unlucky enough to end up on the menu at a restaurant in Connecticut, drawing local gawkers who wanted to laugh and point before his Last Bath. But "good lobsterian" Don MacKenzie saved Larry and set him free, invoking the sanity claws.

**7** They call the judge "Mariah." Mariah Carey replaces Jennifer Lopez as a judge on American Idol, which is only fitting, as she's the one responsible for the legions of competing copycat divas who pretend to play the microphone like a trumpet and lard their vocals with overblown, unnecessary runs and trills. Mother Carey's chickens come home to roost.

**8** Speaking of birds. It's hard to believe, but Twitter went down Thursday right in the middle of all the above exciting stuff, probably because everyone was tweeting about Robert and Kristen's vampire games. For about an hour, no birds sang. And then, of course, the most popular topic was #WhenTwitterWasDown ... after it went up.

**9** BieberWatch. Justin, as part of his maturity project, has gotten a new tattoo following the release of his latest album, Believe. Why am I thinking about that great line from Finding Nemo? "I think I just inked myself." Well, what else could he do? Twitter was down.

# Planet Earth as a canvas



NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER/USGS

## Q & A

### 'Great combination of colours and patterns'

#### In your opinion, what made this particular photo a winning one?

This image of Gotland — acquired in July 2005 — was a particularly popular one thanks to its great combination of colours and patterns.

What is also noteworthy — and

especially so for biologists — concerns the blooms of phytoplankton. These microscopic organisms contain a green chlorophyll pigment they use to generate nutrients with the help of sunlight. But in this area near Gotland, the clutters of phytoplankton are very unusual.



RONALD BECK  
Public Information Specialist  
at Landsat

## Earth photography

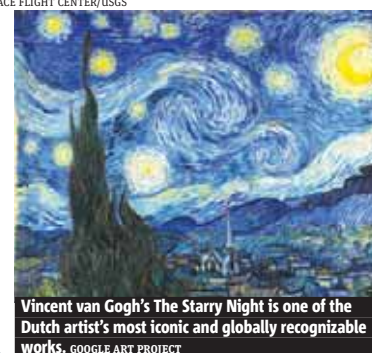
### Photo of island and luminous plankton wins public vote

In this amazing island-and-sea photograph, you can almost see Van Gogh's famous painting *The Starry Night*. The image of greenish phytoplankton swirling around Gotland, a Swedish island in the Baltic Sea, was voted by the public as the top image from NASA's Earth as Art collection. The collection is based on more than 40 years' worth of images from the space agency's Earth-observation satellites.

Since 1972, NASA's Landsat earth-observing program has become a vital reference worldwide for understanding scientific issues related to land use and natural resources.

Beyond the scientific information they supply, some Landsat images are simply striking to look at, presenting spectacular views of mountains, valleys and islands as well as forests, grasslands and agricultural patterns.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/METRO



Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night* is one of the Dutch artist's most iconic and globally recognizable works. GOOGLE ART PROJECT



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I COULD  
NAME MOST  
OF THEM

61%  
I DON'T  
KNOW MUCH.  
GO CANADA  
GO?

25%  
I KNOW WHO ONE  
OR TWO ARE

## Twitter

### @vanduseng8:

Pretty sure I just saw Brad Marchand driving a yellow Lamborghini by the Kearney Lake exit. #Boston #Halifax #bruins #NHL

spicy beef. Its probably not spicy beef, but its still making me crave tacos.

### @ParaplueKnits:

Sharing my love of #halifax with my cycling friends from Vancouver at Just Us cafe. I would like to get a bike so I can be cool too.

### @melindy81:

@cnydilauper You don't need a sweater, Halifax is pretty hot this summer

### @shaunamerrick:

The guy beside me in this #Halifax passport office smells like

### @b\_dizzie:

People sleeping in sleeping bags outside the entrance to The Summit Shop in #Halifax. Homeless or publicity? or both?





The Watch shifts from police procedural to comedy to alien invasion. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD  
CROUSE AND  
MARK BRESLIN

# Scripts that go clunk in the night

**The Watch.** Three of the funniest guys around can't even save this lacklustre comedy

**Richard:** Mark, The Watch mixes and matches an alien invasion story with a police procedural story and comedy in the same way that it throws together its three over the title stars, Stiller, Hill and Vaughn. That is to say, sloppily. It hopes to win audiences by giving them a little of everything, but feels like the cinematic equivalent of an unmixed bed. Luckily newcomer (to us anyway) Richard Ayoade spices things up.

**Mark:** Richard, I didn't even like this movie when it was called Ghostbusters. And that movie had an iconic cast and was very much of its moment. But this flick feels so ripped off that even the col-

our of the slime is the same. Yes, Ayoade is good, and I hope to see him in a better movie soon. And Vince Vaughan can't help but be funny. But you're right about the sloppiness of the whole enterprise. Every scene and every character has a different tone, resulting in a tone-deaf comedy. I don't think I laughed once.

**RC:** I liked this more than you think. I laughed, but the giggles didn't come as the result of a well-crafted script or an intelligent diction. They come because this crew of veterans knows how to suck a laugh out of almost anything. Vaughn made me laugh here and there, but his fast-talking act wore thin for me a long time ago. Ditto Stiller and Hill and their trademarks. I was happy to have a breath of fresh air in the form of Ayoade, who can make a throwaway line like, "That was stressful," the funniest gag in the film.

**MB:** Yes, we're dealing with comedy pros here. The acting isn't the problem. The script — even the idea of the script — is. This wheezy contraption felt completely fake, especially at the end when the movie turns violent. I mean, come on, is anyone in the theatre supposed to be scared of the aliens? Or care about the "heroes?" This is Hollywood committee writing at its worst, Richard, and you know it!

**RC:** I agree, but if you go in like I did, with low to no expectations, you'll laugh occasionally. Not loudly, and not often, but you'll laugh. If it is alien comedy that you're after, however, you may be better off renting Paul, starring Nick Frost, Simon Pegg and a foul mouthed ET.

**MB:** Or Galaxy Quest or even Earth Girls are Easy. I think if this had been a pure com-

Synopsis

When a security guard is found skinned alive at a Costco, the store's manager Evan (Ben Stiller) vows to find his employee's killer. To get the job done he starts a Neighborhood Watch with three misfit volunteers from the community. Bob (Vince Vaughn) is a manchild with a wild child daughter. Franklin (Jonah Hill) is a psycho cop wannabe and Jamarkus (Richard Ayoade) joined because he hopes it will help him meet women. They discover the killer may not be of this planet!

- Richard: ●●●●●
- Mark: ●●●●●

On the web



Big names from Tom Hanks to Jerry Seinfeld enter digital fray



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**Drama/Music**



**Step Up Revolution**

Director. Scott Speer

Stars. Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick

This installment of the franchise is now transported to Miami and introduces an entirely new cast. A local dance crew stages spontaneous routines on the city's streets in the hopes of winning a viral video challenge. But when a developer threatens to tear down their neighbourhood, the tycoon's own daughter shows her new friends that their fancy footwork can be used to save their area from destruction. Once again, the dance sequences are spectacular. But can't we please get a movie that offers more than your average music video?

IAN GORMELY

**Drama**



**Beasts of the Southern Wild**

Director. Benh Zeitlin

Stars. Quevenzhane Wallis, Dwight Henry

This critically praised indie is shot with a poet's eye but it's not poetry. Director Benh Zeitlin's debut slams together artful mysticism and calculated naturalism to create a dubious sort of hybrid. Six-year-old Quevenzhane Wallis holds the fort as a motherless sprite endangered by a storm but the other characters are blurry and the relentless reaching for "powerful" effects grows tiring by the end.

ADAM NAYMAN

# Luke Skywalker joins the dark side in crime flick

**Sushi Girl.** Sadistic thief role allowed Mark Hamill to play the bad guy – and he enjoyed every minute

Star Wars could have been a lot different if Mark Hamill had picked his role.

"I remember reading Star Wars and thinking, boy, I wish I could be playing Darth Vader — that's the part," Hamill said.

There was never any question of that, however, and he went on to become a pop culture icon as plucky Luke Skywalker, the intrepid space adventurer who helps derail the evil Vader's plans for galactic domination in three Star Wars films.

Hamill's latest role is a galaxy away from the earnest Skywalker. In *Sushi Girl*, a crime noir flick having its international premiere at Montreal's Fantasia Film Festival, he plays Crow, a sadistic robber who



Mark Hamill is a pop culture icon — and now a sadistic robber in his latest film. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

inflicts pain with all the non-chalance of a chat between Skywalker and his robot pal R2D2.

"Every actor wants to push the envelope and explore the extremes on both sides," Hamill said, calling Skywalker "an icon of virtue."

But playing villains has

proven lucrative for him too, with one of the most notable being his over-the-top vocal interpretation of The Joker in the animated Batman TV series and video games.

"It was a great kick to be cast as The Joker because he's an icon 180 degrees away from

Luke," Hamill said, agreeing it's often more enjoyable to play the villain than the hero.

"You're messing up the chance for good to succeed and that's a lot of fun."

In *Sushi Girl*, Hamill teams with a roster of horror and action movie stars including James Duval from *Donnie Darko*, serial heavy Andy Mackenzie (*Shoot 'Em Up*), Michael Biehn, who duked it out with Arnold Schwarzenegger in *The Terminator*, and Tony Todd, who chilled filmgoers in *The Candyman* and has appeared on various TV shows including *24*.

Todd said the script for *Sushi Girl* reminded him of other prominent genre films such as *Asphalt Jungle* and *The Killing*, which Hamill calls his favourite Stanley Kubrick movie.

"I just wanted to get away from the career wearing prosthetics and hooks on my hands and have a role that was 100 per cent," said Todd, adding he saw the crime flick as a chance to "take things to another level."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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## Halifax

### Bayers Lake 190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake, 902-876-4800

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 11:20-3:10-6:50-9:50  
Brave (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 11:50-3:20-6:45-9:20  
The Dark Knight Rises (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:30-12-12:25-12:45-1:20-2:10-3:15-3:45-4:20-6-6:15-7-8-8:45-9:15-9:30-9:55 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 11:30-12-12:25-12:45-1:20-2:10-3:15-3:45-4:20-6-6:15-7-8-8:45-9:15-9:30-9:55  
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1-3:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 11-1-3:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1-3:35  
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:10-3:05-6:25-9  
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:05-3:55-7:10-9:40  
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4  
Magic Mike (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40-6:40-10:05  
Moving Day (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7:20-10:10  
Savages (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7:30-10:25  
Step Up Revolution 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:15-7:15-9:45  
Ted (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-7:50-10:20  
The Watch (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium



The Dark Knight Rises PROVIDED

Seating Fri-Thu 11:40-4:10-7:40-10:10

Seating Mon-Thu 11-2:45-6:35-10:15

Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:40-9

### Imax 190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake, 902-876-4800

The Dark Knight Rises: The IMAX Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11-2:45-6:35-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium

### Oxford Theatre 6408 Quinpool Rd. 902-423-7488

Beasts of the Southern Wild (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 4:15-6:40-9 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:40-9 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 4:15-6:40-9

### Park Lane 5657 Spring Garden Rd. 902-423-4860

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30  
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:50  
The Dark Knight Rises (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:15-12:40-2:45-3:15-4:15-6:20-7-9-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 12:15-12:40-2:45-3:15-4:15-6:20-7-9-9:30 Stadium Seating Wed 12:15-12:40-2:45-3:15-4:15-7-9-9:30 Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-12:40-2:45-3:15-4:15-6:20-7-9-9:30  
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:25 Stadium Seating Sun 12:45 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:25  
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:50  
Ted (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:20-10  
To Rome With Love (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:25-6:30-9:15  
The Watch (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:10-9:40

## Lower Sackville

Lower Sackville

### 760 Sackville Dr., Downs- view Plaza 902-869-2022

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 2:15-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12-3:10-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 2:15-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:30-9:30  
The Dark Knight Rises (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 3-4-7:15-9 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7:15-9 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon 7:15-9 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 3-4-7:15-9 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:15-9  
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 2 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 2 Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:20-6:40-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9  
Step Up Revolution (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 2:30 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 2:30  
Step Up Revolution 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:45-6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:25  
Ted (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 2:40-7-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-7-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 7-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 2:40-7-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7-9:35  
The Watch (18) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 2:45-6:50-9:15 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:25-3:15-6:50-9:15 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon 6:50-9:15 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 2:45-6:50-9:15 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:50-9:15

## Dartmouth

### Dartmouth Crossing 145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing 902-481-3251

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15  
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 3:25-6:40-9:50  
Brave (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:40-3:15  
The Dark Knight Rises (STC) Stadium

Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 2-6:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12-12:30-1-1:30-3:35-4:05-4:35-7-7:30-8-9:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2-6:20-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12-12:30-1-1:30-3:35-4:05-4:35-7-7:30-8-9:15  
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55  
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:50-4:25-7:10-9:25  
Magic Mike (14) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 7:50-10:30  
Savages (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:30-9:45  
Step Up Revolution 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:35  
Ted (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:20  
The Watch (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:10

## Truro

### Truro 20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook 902-895-8020

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:50-6:30-9:35  
The Dark Knight Rises (STC) Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:30-3-6-7:30-9:15  
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:45-9:10 Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:10  
Step Up Revolution (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:05-6:40-9  
Ted (14) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:15-6:50-9:20  
The Watch (18) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:35-6:35-8:55

## Bridgewater

### Bridgewater 349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Sun 2:55-6:35-9:30 Mon 6:35-9:30 Tue 2:55-6:35-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:35-9:30  
The Dark Knight Rises (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 2:45-3-6:30-8:45 Mon 6:30-8:45 Tue 2:45-3-6:30-8:45 Wed-Thu 6:30-8:45  
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Sun 2:30 Tue 2:30  
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 6:45-9:05  
Step Up Revolution 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 3:15-6:55-9:20 Mon 6:55-9:20 Tue 3:15-6:55-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:55-9:20  
Ted (14) Fri-Sun 3:05-7:05-9:35 Mon 7:05-9:35 Tue 3:05-7:05-9:35 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:35  
The Watch (18) Fri-Sun 3:10-7:15-9:40 Mon 7:15-9:40 Tue 3:10-7:15-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:40



# Travis Wall has All the Right Moves

**Dancing days.** Emmy-nominated choreographer brought his talent, and drama, to TCA press tour

AMBER  
RAY  
Metro World News

The work of Travis Wall is everywhere. The young dancer is choreographing routines on the current season of Fox's *So You Think You Can Dance*; his moves are featured in the film *Step Up Revolution*, hitting theatres Friday; and on Tuesday, his mission to found the dance company Shaping Sound with his friends is documented on the new Oxygen reality series, *All the Right Moves*.

The 24-year-old SYTYCD veteran — he was the runner-up on the competition's second season — has, undeniably, become a bankable name in the dance world.

That notoriety doesn't always sit well with his pals — including Shaping Sound co-founders Nick Lazzarini, winner of the first season of SYTYCD, and Teddy Forance, who has performed with Lady Gaga and Janet Jackson

— which makes Wall's story perfect for a docu-series. Artistry and drama collide in every episode.

"When we were getting things kicked off, I definitely took the leadership role," Wall said of his group at the Television Critics Association press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Wednesday. "And through the season, we definitely see control struggles. Our egos are definitely test-

ed."

From episode one there is concern over the shadow Wall's spotlight may cast on his partners, particularly after the suggestion is made to rename the company Travis Wall's Shaping Sound.

"That was not the intention of starting this dance company, to throw my name on it," Wall insisted.

Instead, Wall hopes Shaping Sound, whose co-founders

were just nominated for an Emmy for their choreography on *Dancing with the Stars*, receives even more widespread recognition for their talent.

"Our goal in the entire series is to ... tour the United States with our dance company," Wall said.

"We can pay our dancers. We can travel the country together, have fun, party, dance, and just have the time of our lives."

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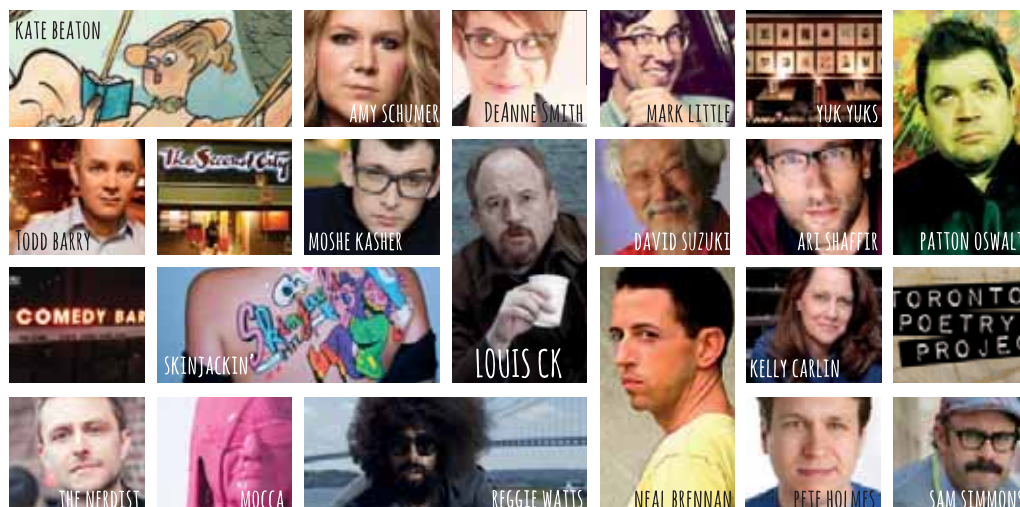
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Dancer Travis Wall speaks onstage at the All The Right Moves panel during the 2012 Summer TCA Tour in California. FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES



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A JUST FOR LAUGHS AND LIVE NATION PRODUCTION





Katherine Jackson. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Katherine's lawyer vows to get her reinstated as guardian

The Jackson family's recent dispute seems to be at least partially resolved, as Katherine Jackson has been reunited with her grandchildren.

"Grandma's here!" Paris Jackson, her 14-year-old granddaughter, posted to Twitter.

Katherine, who is legal guardian for Paris and her two brothers — children of the late Michael Jackson — was reported missing after she was spirited away

to Arizona to rest without her grandchildren being notified. The kids' cousin, TJ Jackson, was granted temporary custody this week, but now that Katherine is back she intends to regain custody, according to Hollyscoop.

"This is creating some havoc that we need to nip in the bud," her lawyer, Perry Sanders, says.

"I intend to get her immediately reinstated as the guardian."

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



## Pattinson relationship heading to its Twilight

### THE WORD

Monica Weymouth  
scene@metronews.ca

Not surprisingly, Robert Pattinson has packed up and left the Los Angeles home he shared with Kristen Stewart. This comes after Us Weekly published photos of his girlfriend and Twilight co-star in the midst of a not-so-discreet fling with director Rupert Sanders.

Although Stewart issued a weepy public appeal for forgiveness, it appears Pattinson isn't having any of it — maybe because, like Us Weekly, he noticed that

the L.A. Dodgers hat she was wearing in the photos looks suspiciously similar to one he's frequently spotted in.

"I'm not sure they'll be able to recover from this," a source associated with Twilight tells People magazine, adding that Pattinson isn't in contact with Stewart and "is heartbroken and angry."

Tell us, source, how does Kristen feel?

"Kristen really loves Rob more than anything," they continue.

"He's all that matters to her right now."

There's plenty more to come from this: Stewart is reportedly preparing to personally apologize to Sanders' wife, and the final Twilight circus doesn't hit theatres until November.

In other words: If we have to feel like a sleazy Cheaters B-team crew, so do you, so try to sit back and enjoy the ride.



Jeremy Renner

## Renner not prepared for what popped up

Jeremy Renner doesn't have the best luck with flights, he tells Jimmy Kimmel during an interview.

"A lot of times when I'm on the plane, I have to sleep. And I'm not a good sleeper on the plane," the Bourne Legacy star explains. "I had to fly from London to Los Angeles for dinner, and then get right back on a plane to London. ... Somebody gave me some pills, like Ambien. So I took

a little sleeping pill, popped it and realized nothing's happening — but something else was happening!"

Renner soon realized he had accidentally taken a Viagra pill instead.

"Not only did I not sleep the entire flight, but there was ... 'camping' ... happening," he says. "The flight attendants were sort of in on the joke. They were like, 'Can we get you anything, Mr. Renner?'"

### Twitter



@kirstiealley

Good Morning!!!! Kayaking today???? This should be good..Oh Lawd



@IMKristenBell

i want 2 live in a nation where we do more than pay attn 2 the issue of the moment, where we follow through.



@russellcrowe

40.40 km bike ride Reykjavik to Hafnarfjodur via coast to Laugar World Class, gym [10x60 kg bench, 10x70 kg seated Jhammer, 1m prone hold] x 5



@AlbertBrooks

Just arrived in Beijing for the Olympics. These buildings do not look like they're ready for Friday.

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# Keeping things cool



## Cherry Cola Shaved Ice

- Four 12-oz cans cola soda (6 cans are needed if making granita)
- 12-oz bag frozen cherries, thawed
- Chopped maraschino cherries, to garnish

1. In saucepan over high heat, bring cola to a boil. Use caution and stir regularly until the foam subsides. Boil until mix reduced to 1 cup, about 20 minutes.

2. In blender, purée cherries until smooth. Stir the cherries into the reduced cola and cook for another 2 minutes. Strain mix through fine mesh strainer, discarding solids. Allow to cool. Refrigerate until using.

3. To use with shaved ice, drizzle a bit of the syrup over a cone or bowl of ice, then garnish with chopped maraschino cherries.

Granita option: Stir 2 more 12-oz cans of cola into the entire batch of cooled syrup. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch pan and freeze. Every 20 minutes, use a fork to scrape and stir the mixture until it is firm with small ice crystals. Spoon into dishes and garnish with chopped cherries.

## Coconut Lime Shaved Ice

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup lime juice
- Zest of 2 limes
- Cream of coconut, to drizzle

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the sugar, water, lime juice and lime zest. Heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves, about 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow the mixture to cool completely. Refrigerate until ready to use.

2. To use with shaved ice, drizzle a bit of the syrup over a cone or bowl of ice, then drizzle cream of coconut over the top.

Granita option: Stir another 1 1/2 cups of water and 1/2 cup lime juice into the entire batch of chilled syrup. Pour the mixture into a 9-by-13-inch pan and freeze. Every 20 minutes, use a fork to scrape and stir the mixture until it is firm with small ice crystals. Gently fold and swirl 1/2 cup cream of coconut into the mixture, then scoop into bowls or glasses to serve.

## Mocha Shaved Ice

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons instant coffee granules
- 1 cup water
- Shaved chocolate, to garnish

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the sugar, cocoa powder, instant coffee and water. Whisk until the sugar and instant coffee dissolve. Remove from the heat and strain the mixture through a fine mesh strainer. Allow to cool completely. Refrigerate until ready to use.

2. To use with shaved ice, stir the syrup then drizzle a bit over a cone or bowl of ice, then garnish with shaved chocolate.

Granita option: Stir another 2 1/2 cups of water into entire batch of cooled syrup. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch pan and freeze. Every 20 minutes, use a fork to scrape and stir the mixture until it is firm with small ice crystals. Spoon into dishes and garnish with shaved chocolate.

## Liquid Assets

### London beer and Olympic watching



**LIQUID ASSETS**  
Peter Rockwell  
@therealwineguy  
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

Unless they make chug-a-lugging an Olympic sport, the only torch I'll ever carry is for that brunette I had the hots for in university.

I do love London and can't think of a better place to watch our athletes compete — on TV from the comfort of one of the city's old school pubs.

They take drinking beer very seriously in England, with a pint of almost every variety of ale tracing its roots back to somewhere in the United Kingdom.

While the taps advertising huge multinational producers dominate modern London's liquor landscape, you can still get a glass of local brew at the public houses owned by individual breweries.

Fuller's is the city's oldest, having pumped out suds in its Chiswick brewery since 1845. Its soft, smooth and creamy London Pride Ale (500 ml, \$2.80 - \$3.44) is, well, the pride of London. I'm partial to its

Organic Honey Dew Ale (500 ml, \$3.35 - \$3.95), an all-natural, lightly malty creation with a subtle bitterness and just a touch of bee juice.

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# Fresh ginger in all its glory

Fresh ginger, the gnarly brown root that lives amongst the grocer's Asian produce, offers flavour that's so much better than its dried counterpart that you must get to know it.

Most of us think of ginger as a powder in the spice cabinet and use it mostly for baking. In Asia, where ginger originated, it's more a savoury ingredient. That's because fresh ginger packs tons of warm peppery flavour that works so well with meats and veggies.

When shopping for fresh ginger, look for firm, tan roots with no signs of mould or shriveling. It can be stored in the refrigerator for several weeks. But you can also freeze your fresh ginger.

When cooking with fresh ginger, keep in mind a few things. First, cooking mellows the flavour. So if you want to

really taste it, add some ginger at the beginning of cooking, and a bit more at the end.

Second, the strength of the ginger can vary widely by the piece. So if you're looking for a serious hit of ginger, taste it before you add it.

1. In a blender, combine the orange juice, ginger, garlic and salt. Purée until smooth, then set aside.

2. Carefully slice each chicken breast in half horizontally to create 2 thin halves. Place the chicken in a zip-close plastic bag, then add the orange juice mixture. Refrigerate the chicken for at least 30 minutes.

3. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4. In a wide, shallow bowl, mix together the flour and garlic powder. Beat the egg in a second bowl, and pour the panko into a third.

5. One at a time, remove the chicken pieces from the marinade, reserving the marinade. Dredge each piece of chicken first through the flour, then the egg, then the panko. Arrange them on the prepared baking

sheet.

6. Spritz the tops of the chicken with cooking spray, then bake for 25 minutes.

7. Meanwhile, transfer the marinade to a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil and cook for 3 minutes. Stir in the cream. Serve the chicken with the sauce.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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**MIX OF SIX**  
Jenna Conter  
halifax@metronews.ca



## A matter of Pride

Halifax Pride continues to celebrate 25 years of pride in our city. Helping to close off this weekend's celebrations will be the popular Gay Pride parade. Halifax Pride is also presenting its first fireworks display on Saturday night in the Garrison Grounds. Stick around after the fireworks for the WetSpot 8 Pride Closing Party! For ticket information and scheduling visit [halifaxpride.com](http://halifaxpride.com).



## Wanna just have fun?

The first female artist in history to have five top 10 singles from a debut album, Cyndi Lauper won a Grammy award for Best New Artist in 1985 and has been a force in the music industry ever since. Bringing her Memphis Blues tour to The Schooner Room at the Casino Nova Scotia on Friday, the Girls Just Wanna Have Fun singer has also made inroads for AIDS awareness and gay rights and equality with her True Colors Fund and the Give a Damn Campaign. Visit [ticketatlantic.com](http://ticketatlantic.com) for ticket information.



## The new music

Casino Nova Scotia and Music Nova Scotia present New Music Fridays, an opportunity for new and upcoming bands to take the stage at one of the most exciting live venues in Atlantic Canada. Happening weekly at 9 p.m. in The Harbourfront Lounge at Casino Nova Scotia, New Music Fridays celebrates and promotes new local music while giving every act the chance to build a local following.



## alFresco filmFesto

Johnny Depp is coming to town. Well sadly, only through some of his movie roles. On the back of last year's Bill Murray theme, this year's 12th annual alFresco filmFesto has selected, after much debate, five Depp films to show on its outdoor theatre on the Halifax Waterfront, just beside the Seaport Market. The festival kicks off Friday at dusk with 1990's Edward Scissorhands. For more information visit [atlanticfilm.com/festivals/alfresco](http://atlanticfilm.com/festivals/alfresco).



## Teed off

The TELUS World Skins Game celebrates its 20th anniversary as it kicks off at the Glen Harbour Golf Club. The Monday and Tuesday event brings five top PGA Tour professionals to our region. Also in attendance and playing golf are Academy Award winner Kevin Costner and Juno Award-winning Canadian musician and humanitarian Tom Cochran. For more information visit [telusskins.com](http://telusskins.com).



## From Windsor to Wolfville

Almost 350 cyclists are rolling through our region for the 23rd annual Nova Scotia MS Bike Tour. The two-day cycling event runs from Windsor to Wolfville and back again, covering 100 kilometres. Our region's tour is one of 22 tours around the country. More than 10,000 cyclists are expected to participate in both one and two-day tours being held throughout the summer and into fall. For more information visit [mssociety.ca/atlantic](http://mssociety.ca/atlantic).



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When the second issue of DC Comics' Earth 2 issue came out on June 5, so did one of the comic legend's oldest superheroes — the Green Lantern. As scandalous as it might have been for the original Lantern to be gay in 1940, the 2012 version caused barely a ripple. But is it really easier coming out as gay or lesbian now than in decades past? Here are four real-life accounts from different times and places.

KATHY ULLYOTT  
Metro World News

# Out: About



HANDOUT

## Andrew Chase, chef and food writer, Toronto, age 57

### Coming-out age:

Just before my 18th birthday.

### Coming-out story:

I was a freshman at university and adjusting to being away from home and admitting to myself that I was gay. I came out first to a friend in my dormitory whom I suspected was also gay (I was right). It was strange, natural, easy, difficult, uncomfortable and liberating.

### Any negative repercussions?

I had extreme difficulties with my family when I finally came out to them 10 years later, but that mellowed to complete acceptance after about a year.

### What I would tell a young person considering coming out as gay or lesbian today:

Do it when you feel comfortable. It can be a gradual process. Realize certain people might never understand, but that is their problem, not yours.



## Caleb, visual effects artist, Vancouver, age 25

### Coming-out age: 20

### Coming-out story:

I told everyone via Facebook. My parents weren't on Facebook, though, so I had to tell them in person — that was a bit more difficult.

### Any negative repercussions?

No, not really. Everyone was totally cool. My mom was fine; I don't think she was that surprised.

### What I would tell a young person considering coming out as gay or lesbian today:

Don't stress out about it too much — tell whom you want to, people you are close to. It can be difficult to tell your parents, but there's a really good chance that they know more than you think they know.



## Julia Gulliver, preparatory chef and student, St. John's, age 19

### Coming-out age: 15

### Coming-out story:

I was in Grade 10, and my best friend knew I had a crush on someone. She tried to guess who it was, guessing every boy we know (nope!). Finally she said, "Is it a girl?" I said, "Yes!" Then I was like a runaway train, telling everybody.

### Any negative repercussions?

Not really. It took my family a month or two to warm up to the fact. My mom cried. But for her it was less about my being lesbian and more about life being maybe a more difficult road for me.

### What I would tell a young person considering coming out as gay or lesbian today:

If you're not sure how important people (to you) might react, test the waters by saying, "Here's this interesting story I read ..." Proceed with caution if you don't like the reaction.



## Bradley Borg, events planner, Toronto, age 52

### Coming-out age:

Seventeen, when I put words to it.

### Coming-out story:

I'd kind of always been out. But when I was in high school I fell madly in love with someone so I found myself putting words around it, saying "I'm gay."

### Any negative repercussions?

In 1981 when my mom was dying of pancreatic cancer, she was losing her hair from the chemo and asked me to give her a punk haircut. As I was doing it, she said, "Don't ever tell your father (that you're gay)." It wasn't that he didn't know; he just didn't want to hear it.

### What I would tell a young person considering coming out as gay or lesbian today:

I don't think there's any need to make a big pronouncement to the world. Straight people don't walk into a boardroom and say, "Hey, everybody, I'm straight!"



## Take Pride in Your Sleep Sanctuary. Happy 25<sup>th</sup>!

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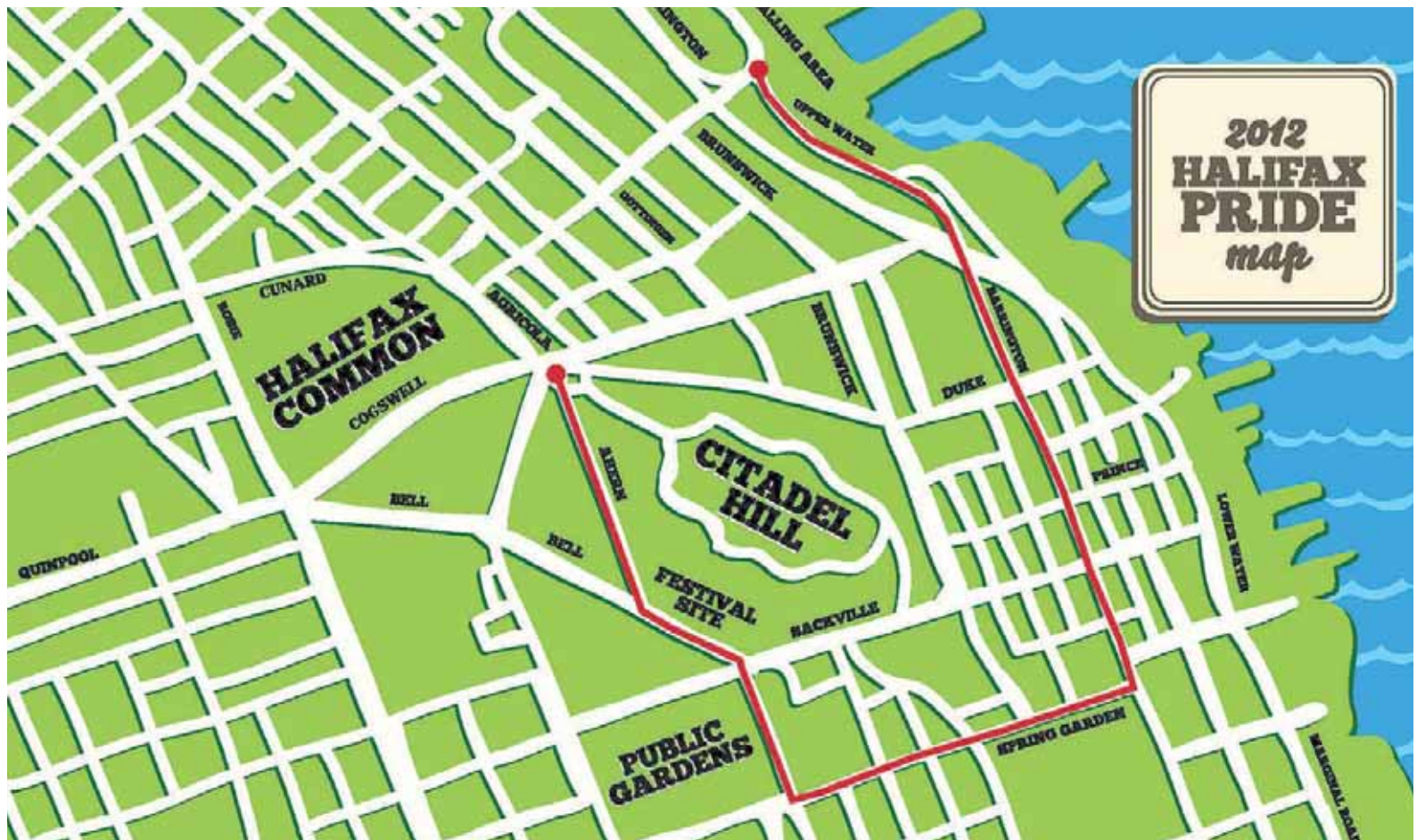
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## It's time to show your pride at the 25th annual Halifax Pride Parade!

Halifax is home to the fourth largest pride parade in Canada, and this year is primed to be the best one yet! Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Halifax's most colourful and entertaining parade will march through the heart of the city, from Barrington Street to Citadel Hill. The parade is scheduled for Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, visit [halifaxpride.com](http://halifaxpride.com).

### OutBoating

#### Tall Ship's sunset party cruise

Wine and cheese will be served on this sunset cruise around the Halifax harbour. Sailing from Tall Ship Silva, Queen's Wharf, near the foot of Prince Street. July 26, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30. 877-429-9463.

### OutDancing

#### Pride's 3rd Annual Dance Party

Dance the night away to great DJs spinning great tunes. July 27, Garrison Grounds, Halifax Citadel National Historic Site, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets \$5 at the gate.

### Spirit

#### Inter-faith religious service

An inter-faith religious service open to all. July 28, Petrie's Feast Dinner Theatre, 1505 Barrington St., 11 a.m. to noon. Free admission.

### Music

#### Rouge Fatale's Festival Stage

Hosted by Rouge Fatale, enjoy performances by Young Kaii, Kevin Wong and The Mellotones. July 28, Garrison Grounds, Halifax Citadel National Historic Site, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission.

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# 'Canada's team' coming to Halifax for training camp

**NBA.** Toronto Raptors to call the Canada Games Centre home in early October



**PHILIP CROUCHER**  
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

Four years ago, Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston had a vision to bring the Toronto Raptors to the provincial capital for their NBA training camp.

One problem: The Raptors said there wasn't a suitable venue in HRM and turned down the request. But with the Canada Games Centre now open, Levingston went calling again to Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo about bringing the team here for camp. And this time, he got the response he wanted.

Calling the Canada Games Centre a venue he wished Toronto could have, Colangelo announced Thursday that the 16-month-old facility in Clayton Park will host the team's first week of training camp from Oct. 1 to 6.

There will also be an intra-squad game Oct. 6 at noon at the Halifax Metro Centre.

"He put the strong arm on me and here we are today," Colangelo said, referencing Levingston's desire to bring the Raptors here.

Holding a portion of their NBA team camp like this outside of Toronto is nothing new for the Raptors. They've done it four other times — with stops in Vancouver, Italy, Spain and Buffalo, N.Y.

"Why not Halifax? It's a beautiful city in a beautiful part of the country," Colangelo said. "It was (also) about our mantra of let's get out and share this Toronto Raptors experience with as many people as possible. This is not Toronto's team. This is Canada's team."



Toronto Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo, right, next to Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston at Thursday morning's press conference. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

## Ticket sales

- Tickets for the intra-squad game go on sale Friday through all AML Communications locations, with a voluntary donation of \$10 suggested.
- All proceeds from the game will go to support Feed Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame Education Program, Kidsport Nova Scotia and YWCA Supportive Housing for Young Mothers.

All practice sessions during training camp will be closed to the public, but Colangelo said the team will make several community visits during the week.

He also said the players

and team staff will be out eating in local restaurants and enjoying the city.

"I believe there is going to be a hospital visit, amongst some other things that we've planned," he said. "What we

always do is establish a relationship with the local community where we're visiting, and make sure we get a lot of opportunities to share that experience with those individuals."

Levingston, for one, is thrilled to have the Raptors coming to town, both for basketball fans in Halifax and his franchise in the National Basketball League of Canada.

"It helps us to continue to brand the game of basketball, which is ultimately what we like to do," he said. "So we're just playing our part."



Andrea Bargnani and the Raptors will hold the first week of their training camp in Halifax from Oct. 1 to 6. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

## 'World-class facility' awaits the Raptors

As happy as the Toronto Raptors seem to be about coming to Halifax, folks at the Canada Games Centre are more thrilled to have them.

"It's fantastic," said Colin Piercey, vice-chair of the board for the Canada Games Centre Society. "It shows how lucky we're to have this facility in Halifax. For the Raptors to come here and say it meets

their training-camp needs, it's a real endorsement of the facility as a world-class facility."

Some of those facilities inside the CGC include three full-size NBA courts all next to one another, a track, a fitness centre and a pool. There is also a high-performance training centre, which includes physiotherapy and sport massages.

"Everything all underneath one roof," Piercey said after Thursday's announcement.

He was also beaming over the kind words Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo had for the centre.

"We've heard a lot of people say that ... about how fantastic this facility is."

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



A view of the basketball courts the Toronto Raptors will be using at the Canada Games Centre. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

4 SPORTS

## Mobile sports



In an off-season marked by Junior Seau's suicide and scores of lawsuits over brain injuries, the NFL on Thursday launched a comprehensive wellness program for current and retired players. Some welcomed the program as long overdue while those leading the NFL concussion litigation said the latest program lends credence to lawsuits against the league. Scan the code for the story.



# Blue Jays dodge A's sweep

**MLB.** Toronto bounces back from Wednesday's 16-0 drubbing by Oakland

A pair of big blasts and a bunt helped the Toronto Blue Jays avoid a sweep at the hands of the surging Oakland Athletics.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer in the fourth and Kelly Johnson hit a solo shot in the seventh as the Blue Jays beat Oakland 10-4 Thursday, stopping the Athletics' winning streak at seven games.

But in between the homers there was a bunt in the sixth by Travis Snider on a safety squeeze with runners at second and third that scored two runs when Oakland left-hander Tommy Milone lost control on his throw to first.

The throw hit Snider and allowed a second run to score on the play to give the Blue Jays a 5-4 lead, and they never looked back.

"In that spot we're playing for a run just to tie things up," Blue Jays manager John



Edwin Encarnacion hits a three-run homer against the Oakland Athletics Thursday at Rogers Centre in Toronto. BRAD WHITE/GETTY IMAGES

Farrell said. "Fortunately they mishandled the ball and we end up scoring two runs."

Milone said he rushed the throw.

"When he first squared I thought maybe I would have a play at home but then I kind of saw the runner out of the corner of my eye and he

looked like he was going to be safe anyway," Milone said.

The Blue Jays bounced back from a 16-0 drubbing by the A's on Wednesday.

"You can quickly turn the page on a tough day, that's the beauty of this game," Farrell said.

The Blue Jays scored four

Thursday's game

10 4

Blue Jays

Athletics

Quoted

"Just a good come-from-behind win today, particularly with the way things finished up last night."

Blue Jays manager John Farrell

runs in the eighth on a double by Snider, a sacrifice fly by Yan Gomes, and a double by Johnson against Sean Doolittle and a double by Jeff Mathis against Evan Scribner.

"(Toronto) executed well and got some big hits down the stretch," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "Any time you take two out of three on the road you have to consider it somewhat of a success."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NHL

## Flyers sign former Moosehead Voracek to 4-year extension

The Philadelphia Flyers signed former Halifax Mooseheads forward Jakub Voracek to a four-year contract Thursday, worth \$17 million.

The six-foot-two, 214-pound native of Kladno, Czech Republic, had a career-high 18 goals and added 31 assists in 78 regular-season games for the Flyers last season. He added two goals and eight



Jakub Voracek. GETTY IMAGES

assists in 11 playoff games.

Voracek was acquired by the Flyers in a trade with the Columbus Blue Jackets on June 23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

## Carolina wins bid for sniper Semin's services

The Carolina Hurricanes signed Alexander Semin to a \$7-million US, one-year deal Thursday.

Semin had 21 goals and 33 assists with the Washington Capitals last season.

The 28-year-old forward also had two goals and three assists in three games during Russia's gold-medal campaign at the IIHF World Hockey Championship.

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# Piercy breaks course record

**Canadian Open.** Soggy conditions makes for low-scoring day in Ancaster, Ont.

Scott Piercy was at the top of the leaderboard Thursday after a soggy opening round at the RBC Canadian Open.

The American fired an 8-under 62 at Hamilton Golf

and Country Club, which was left almost defenceless by rain that fell overnight and throughout the round. Piercy's 62 matched the competitive course record at Hamilton — Warren Sye shot that number in the third round of the 1991 Ontario Amateur — and included eagles on both of the par-5s.

Piercy, 33, finished third in his last start at the John Deere Classic and gave himself plenty of looks at birdie on Thursday.

"I hit it solid out there," he said. "I think I only missed a couple greens, and ball-striking around here with the rough being so penal is a must to shoot well."

Piercy held a one-shot lead over Greg Owen and William McGirt (63) and was two shots clear of Robert Garrigus (64). A group of seven players opened with 65, including 2011 Masters champion Charl Schwartzel and 2004 Canadian Open

winner Vijay Singh.

"I woke up this morning and thought the British Open was a week too early looking out the window," said Schwartzel. "It wasn't very pleasant weather."

Adam Hadwin of Abbotsford, B.C., the low Canadian at this event the last two years, opened with a 66.

British Open winner Ernie Els shot a 72.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Scott Piercy makes a birdie putt on the ninth hole at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club in Ancaster, Ont. NATHAN DENETTE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# London calling: Let the Games begin



Canadian diver Jennifer Abel practises in London on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canadian diver Meaghan Benfeito waves during a training session on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canada's Milos Raonic practises at Wimbledon on Thursday. The Thornhill, Ont., native will meet Japan's Tatsuma Ito in the first-round of singles play at the Olympics. RYAN REMIOW/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Swimmers practise at the Aquatics Centre at Olympic Park in London on Thursday. MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Opening ceremony. Performance comes above partying for many Canadian athletes

Canadian swimming star Mark Tewksbury watched the opening ceremony of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics from the cafeteria of the athletes' village.

Tewksbury, who won gold at those Games in the 100-metre backstroke, was hoping to get a leg-up on the competition by saving his legs from what he knew would be a long and physically taxing night.

"I got to the cafeteria and my main competitors were all there watching on TV too," said Tewksbury, Canada's chef

de mission at the London Games. "But it was OK. I won it by six one hundredths so who knows? That might have been the six hundredths I would have lost."

Many of Canada's athletes are skipping Friday's opening ceremony, some because they're competing the next day, others because they're housed in locations that are too far a trek from the stadium.

"Some people really get lifted by it and some people think the physical drain is too much," Tewksbury said. "It's a personal choice."

"The whole point of the Olympics is performance. That's the memory you want to take for the rest of your life, and you've still got the closing (ceremony). The closing is there and it's really the athletes' ceremony. It's awful to walk in an opening and regret it because it impacted your performance."

The ceremony at Olympic Stadium, directed by Danny Boyle — the Oscar-winning director of *Slumdog Millionaire* — is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. local time (5 p.m., CTV) and end at midnight. Most of the athletes will be able to walk back to their housing, which is adjacent to Olympic Park, but it still puts them back at the village as late as 12:30 a.m.

Triathlon athlete Simon Whitfield of Victoria will lead Canada into the ceremony as the team's flag-bearer. They are expected to leave the village at 9 p.m. and enter Olympic Stadium at 10:15.

Canada's swim team won't march in the ceremony, meaning freestyler Brent Hayden will be three-for-three in giving the Olympic opening ceremony a pass.

"It's always kind of team policy that if you're competing within the first few days you tend to skip just because you're not going to get to bed at a reasonable hour," Hayden said. "Standing up for hours on end, tiring your legs out is not necessarily the best thing to do before a competition. We all wish we could be there. We are all very patriotic and we would just love to be able to walk into the stadium with our country, waving our flags, but we're here to compete."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



For opening weekend Olympic coverage, go to [metronews.ca/olympics](http://metronews.ca/olympics).

Canadian flag-bearer Simon Whitfield THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Quick turnaround

Several thousand athletes from 204 countries will take part in the ceremony.

- The International Olympic Committee has pressed London organizers to make sure the show doesn't run late so that athletes can get to bed at a reasonable hour.
- There are medal events Saturday in archery, fencing, cycling, judo, shooting, swimming and weightlifting.
- Canada's rowing team will hold its own opening celebration — with the athletes all dressed in their ceremony outfits — at its hotel near the rowing venue. Rowing begins Saturday, with the first boats scheduled to push off the start line at 9:30 a.m.

## London's Olympic venues

- CENTRAL ZONE**
- EARLS COURT**  
Normally a conference hall or music venue, this historic building hosted boxing and other events at the 1948 Olympics.
  - HAMPTON COURT PALACE**  
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  - HORSE GUARDS PARADE**  
A beach in the heart of central London, the grounds date back to 1745.
  - WIMBLEDON**  
The largest grass-court complex in the world and home to the annual grand slam event.
  - WEMBLEY STADIUM**  
The second largest stadium in Europe with a capacity of 90,000, and one of the world's most famous football stadiums. Recently rebuilt.
  - LORD'S CRICKET GROUND**  
The most famous cricket venue in the world will experiment with archery this summer.
  - HYDE PARK**  
London's most famous royal park is one of its largest. A regular host of the World Triathlon Series.



## Dogs, sheep,



People walk outside London Olympic Stadium following opening ceremony rehearsal on

## Quoted

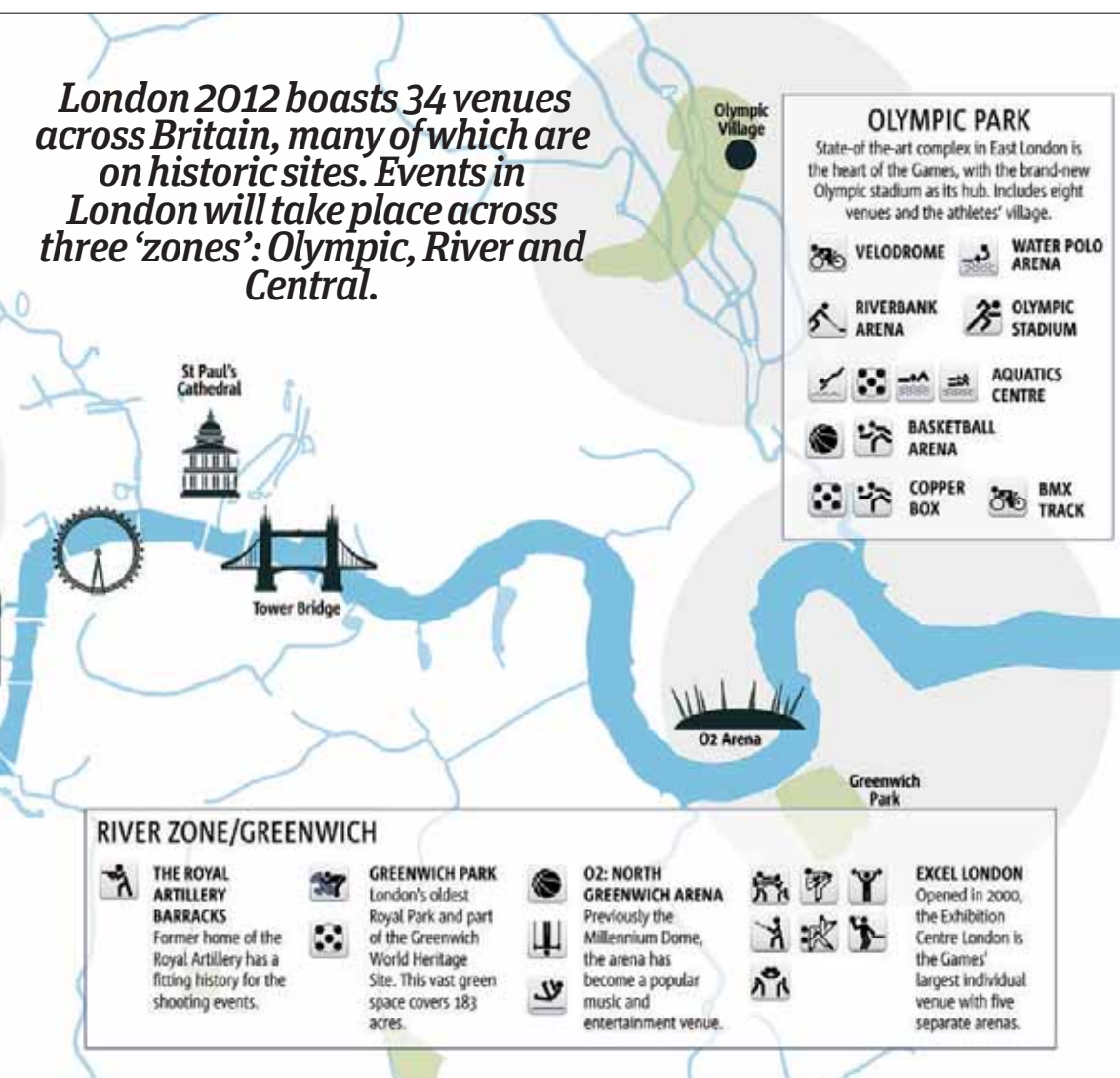


"It's one of those things. All my friends (ask) 'What is it like to walk in the opening ceremonies?' I don't know."

Freestyle swimmer Brent Hayden



**London 2012 boasts 34 venues across Britain, many of which are on historic sites. Events in London will take place across three 'zones': Olympic, River and Central.**



#### Olympics by statistics

London will be the first city ever to host three Olympic Games (1908, 1948 and 2012). Here are a few impressive numbers from 2012.

**302**  
EVENTS

**35**  
SPORTS

**204**  
NATIONS

#### Athletes

**10,490**

#### Foreign visitors

**5 million**

#### Projected ticket sales

**9 million**

#### TV spectators

**4 billion**

#### Ticket prices

Athletics	\$31-\$1,150
Basketball	\$31-\$675
BMX cycling	\$31-\$198
Gymnastics (artistic)	\$31-\$715
Soccer	\$31-\$293
Judo	\$31-\$198
Table tennis	\$31-\$198
Weightlifting	\$31-\$277

## Bond: What to expect at opening ceremony



There will be sheep. A cricket game. Nurses. Plus Paul McCartney and possibly James Bond.

Officials want details of the 27-million pound (\$42.3 million US) London Olympics opening ceremony to be a secret so that viewers can be surprised, but director Danny Boyle has already disclosed select details: Real farm animals on meadows, plows and maypoles, an idyllic picture of England as the "green and pleasant land," a dance number featuring nurses and a closing song by McCartney.

Reports are also suggesting a pre-recorded segment filmed inside Buckingham Palace featuring actor Daniel Craig as Bond, and a stuntman dressed as 007 who will parachute into the stadium to start the show. Later, the pastoral first act will be replaced by a grim scene re-enacting a coal-blackened, industrial Britain.

Here are four opening ceremony highlights to watch out for on Friday:



#### Boyle's sweeping vision

The ceremony's mastermind, filmmaker Danny Boyle, has stressed that the three-hour show will take viewers on a sweeping journey through Britain's history, one that captures the nation's identity, values and heritage, as well as its present and future. In their own ways, each of the elements represents some aspect of Englishness — though some in quirkier ways than others.

#### 2 Un-baah-lievable opening co-stars

Seventy sheep are set to star in the ceremony, alongside 12 horses, 10 chickens and three sheep dogs. Pastoral life has long been romanticized by British writers, and at every patriotic event Britons belt out the glories of "England's pleasant pastures" to William Blake's anthem Jerusalem.



#### Maypoles

Each of Great Britain's four nations — England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland — will be represented by a maypole topped with their national flowers. A pagan folk symbol, the maypole is still commonly erected in British villages during May Day celebrations (as well as elsewhere in Europe) to celebrate the return of warmer weather.

#### 4 Bond-ing Britain with the world

Fast cars, many women, martinis shaken not stirred: The super spy 007 needs little introduction. First introduced by writer Ian Fleming in 1953, the fictional British secret agent is the protagonist in the longest-running film franchise. Bond's dress, cars and expensive tastes ooze British sophistication. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**





# Canadians bringing swagger to the pool

## Swimming.

Expectations running high for team after struggles in past Games

Canada's swimmers are demanding more of themselves at the Summer Olympics.

After no medals in 2004 and one bronze in 2008, Canada's team of 33 athletes is targeting three medals and swimmers in 13 to 15 finals in London.

"It's completely different," backstroker Julia Wilkinson said Thursday. "Four years ago, it was 'We hope we can make some finals.'"

"Now it's 'Who is going to be the first one to win a medal?' We've kind of come in with this swagger and we believe we can do it."

As if to punctuate her point, the Stratford, Ont., swimmer had her nails painted red, white and gold this week.

Swimming starts Saturday and runs for eight days. The



Canada's Julia Wilkinson practises in London on Thursday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

open-water races, which are 10-kilometre swims, will be contested in the second week.

Victoria's Ryan Cochrane prevented a second straight shutout in the pool in Beijing when he won bronze on the last day of competition. Wilkinson was about to race a relay and recalls she and her teammates were stunned to tears by Cochrane's medal.

There will be no shock and awe this time, according to the head of Swimming Canada.

"I don't have a crystal ball," said chief executive officer Pierre Lafontaine. "I can tell you the Canadian kids in our lanes are going to walk pretty tall and they're going to feel they belong in that pool. They're not going to get intimidated by much." THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Track-and-field

### Bolt says he's been slowed by bad back

Usain Bolt finally confessed there has been something wrong. It was his back.

The Olympic champion said Thursday a bad back has been causing him hamstring problems, leading to a pair of losses to training partner Yohan Blake at the Jamaican trials.

"It was a slight problem. I got that fixed and I'm ready to go," Bolt said in his first formal media appearance of the London Games, where he was given the honour of carrying his country's flag at Friday's opening ceremony.

Bolt lost to Blake twice at the recent Jamaican

trials in both the 100 and his favoured 200 metres. The setbacks fuelled speculation that he was injured, but haven't dampened expectation that he will retain his 100 and 200 gold medals.

Bolt also dismissed talk that he had been training away from TV cameras and reporters at the Jamaican team camp in central England because he is injured.

"I'm always ready," he said. "It's all about the championship. It's never about the trials, everyone knows that. My coach doesn't like the cameras. He likes to keep me away from the cameras."

Bolt was scheduled to appear alongside Blake and other athletes at the event in the heart of east London, but travel problems held some of them up, the Jamaican Olympic Association said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Usain Bolt in London on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Heat wave

Organizers are attempting to address complaints over excessive heat inside the Olympic Aquatics Centre.

- Temperatures around the pool have soared over 30 C during a heat wave.

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# Relaxed Phelps enjoying his farewell tour

**Swimming.** American sees London Games as icing on the cake in a wildly successful career

Michael Phelps was strolling through the Olympic Village when he spotted three Russian female athletes — all of them taller than the six-foot-four-inch swimmer.

"Geez, I thought I was tall," he said with a chuckle.

Preparing for what he insists will be his final Olympics, Phelps appears to be having a lot more fun heading into the London Games

than he did at either Athens or Beijing, where he was under intense pressure to turn in the greatest performances in Olympic history.

"This is closure," Phelps said Thursday, sitting beside coach Bob Bowman in the largest conference room at the Main Press Centre. "Now it's just a matter of how many toppings I want on my sundae."

Several hundred media packed the room, including Olympic speedskating star Apolo Anton Ohno, who's now working for NBC and got in a question about how Phelps keeps things simple with all the distractions.

## Medal haul

- In 2008, Phelps became the first athlete to win eight golds at a single games.
- His 16 medals — 14 of which are golds — are two shy of record holder Larisa Latynina, a former Soviet gymnast.

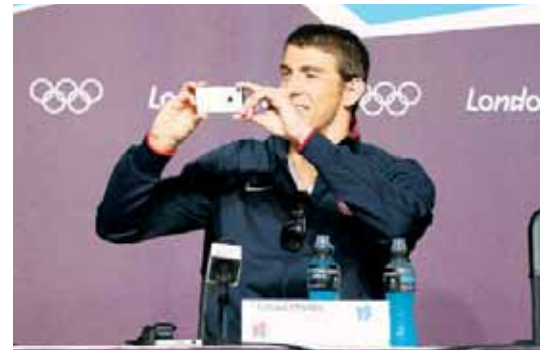
Actually, he seems to be having a blast. After Phelps walked in the room, he pulled out his phone and snapped a picture of all the reporters and cameras staring back at

him, capturing another moment on his farewell tour.

"In Beijing, we were trying to conquer everything," Phelps remembered. "We're a lot more relaxed. We're having fun."

Not that he's got a lot of time to chill in London. He's still swimming more events than anyone except teammate Missy Franklin: four individual races, and all three relays. The only change from China is Phelps' giving up a chance to swim the 200-metre freestyle, feeling he would have a better chance at success with a slightly less strenuous program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



london2012.com olympic.org  
American swimmer Michael Phelps takes a photo during a press conference on Thursday in London. RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

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DEFENDANTS

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## Houses For Sale

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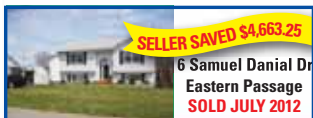
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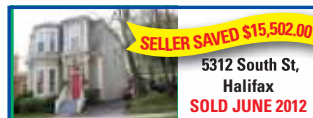
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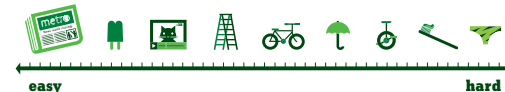
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## ♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Forget about your people skills today and do what feels right to you personally. The more you make an effort to be nice to certain individuals, the more likely it is they will take it as a sign of weakness.

## ♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Whatever has caused you to subdue your feelings and become a bit emotionally distant in recent days, you are advised not to take it too seriously. The Earth turns and everything will look different, and better, tomorrow.

## ♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Adopt a no-nonsense nature today, especially when dealing with people whose negative attitudes can drive you to despair. The more they try to convince you that something terrible is happening, the more you should laugh at them.

## ♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

There is no point getting caught in a battle of wills with someone in a position of power. They will win and you will lose, it's that simple. Let them call the shots.

## ♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Cosmic activity in your own sign encourages you to believe that you can do anything. But you will accomplish more in the long-term if you focus on one particular talent.

## ♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You know it pays to be honest but because you are uncertain how some people might react if you tell them the truth, you are reluctant to open your mouth. That's a mistake. They need your input, so speak up.

## ♏ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Why are you so reluctant to take the advice of a friend? Most likely it's because you don't want to admit that you made the wrong choice. But what's the big deal? You're human like everyone else.

## ♐ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Why are you so reluctant to take the advice of a friend? Most likely it's because you don't want to admit that you made the wrong choice. But what's the big deal? You're human like everyone else.

## ♑ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You may need to force yourself to be enthusiastic about what you are expected to do, but it's an effort worth making. The better the job you do, the more likely it is you will be offered something more interesting later on.

## ♒ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Your confidence may not be up to its usual levels at the moment but it's not the end of the world. If you encounter the kind of opposition that makes you feel uncomfortable, just back off a bit. You've got plenty of time.

## ♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Admit it: You have bitten off more than you can chew and now you are looking around for a way out. Well, that's too bad because there isn't one. Do the best you can and live with the consequences.

## ♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You will let someone know that you don't want to argue but they are hell bent on having it out with you. In which case you might as well tell them what you really think. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Crossword: Sports

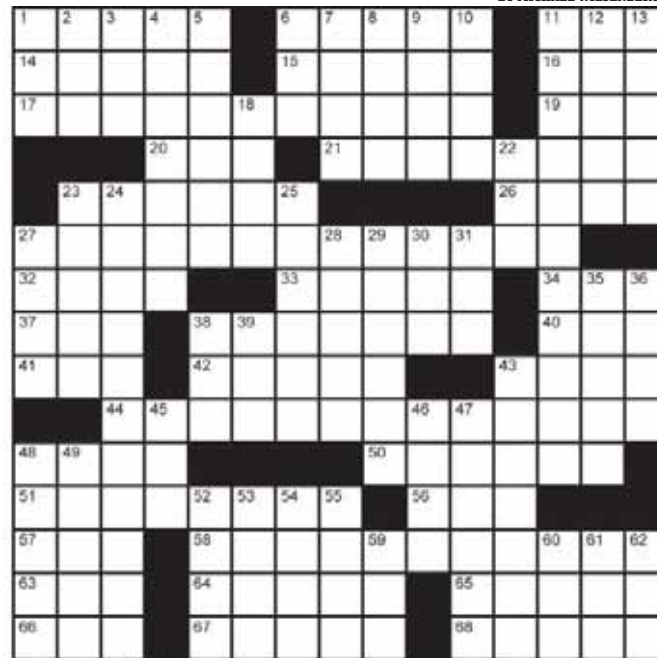
## Across

1. Give a quick welcome
6. Ascend
11. Cable chan. for old films
14. Condescending type
15. Export from Côte d'Ivoire
16. A Gershwin
17. Regina CFL team
19. US Republicans
20. US amateur-sports gp.
21. *Le Rouge et le Noir* author
23. Bola hurler
26. Sermon's end?
27. Alberta hockey team
32. Man or Capri
33. Agitate a liquid
34. Monitor, for short
37. Able, jocularly
38. Where to find Kingston
40. Fish eggs
41. Ring around the Islands
42. "You \_\_\_ one"
43. Word on a greasy spoon's marquee
44. Former MLB team from Québec
48. \_\_\_ Jet
50. More flexible
51. Airy
56. Memo letters
57. Hawaiian tuna
58. Winnipeg team
63. Bewilderment
64. "This \_\_\_ a laughing matter"
65. \_\_\_ Boingo: Danny Elfman's former group
66. "Pipe down!"
67. "Ready, \_\_\_!"
68. Modern treaty violation

## Down

1. Map abbr. before 1991
2. Part of a University of Ottawa cheerleader's request
3. Not me
4. The most popular scale of model railway in the world
5. *Odyssey* setting
6. MV/V
7. Early Beatles, affectionately
8. Rapper who acts on *Law & Order: S.V.U.*
9. Arabian mother
10. Cap'n's mate
11. Fix
12. Native of Zagreb
13. With 48-Down, Toronto team
18. German industrial center
22. Darin's love
23. Canada's \_\_\_ Bay
24. Mercury record
25. Blue \_\_\_ Cult
27. French sky
28. Scathing online criticism
29. "Because I'm worth it" brand
30. Faulkner's \_\_\_ *Lay Dying*
31. Electrical unit that forms another unit upon reversal
35. Wind turbine part
36. Dick Tracy's Truehart
38. Ball or bass following
39. Alta. neighbor
43. Art show
45. It comes out of the ground
46. Accounting acronym
47. Earlier form of a word
48. See 13-Down
49. Set of cultural values
52. Pitcher stats
53. On the other hand
54. Dorothy's Em
55. Carroll of old TV's *Topper*
59. "Takin' Care of Business" band
60. Québec-to-Montréal dir.
61. Abbreviated linemen
62. Drunkard

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



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## Yesterday's crossword



## What's online

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers).

## Sudoku

## How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

## Yesterday's Sudoku



**Today** 22°/16° Showers 60%

**Saturday** 24°/16° Mainly sunny

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Spend	Earn	
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\$150 or more	5x	



July 28-29, earn

**10x** the base  
AIR MILES  
reward miles††

when you spend \$45 or more.



July 27-29, earn

**10** BONUS  
AIR MILES  
reward miles

when you spend \$50 or more.  
No coupon required.‡



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†Offer valid at all Sobeys locations in Atlantic Canada from July 27-29, 2012. Qualifying purchase must occur in a single transaction. Bonus offer applies to the total base reward miles earned on qualifying purchase amount excluding taxes, tobacco products, gift cards, bottle deposits, fluid dairy products, pharmacy, lottery, alcoholic beverages, fuel and any other non-discountable products. Presentation of the AIR MILES Collector Card is required at time of purchase to receive the Bonus offer. ††Bonus Offer valid July 28-29, 2012 at all Lawtons Drugs locations in Atlantic Canada. Limit one (1) Bonus offer per transaction. Bonus offer cannot be combined with any other AIR MILES Bonus offers except Bonus offers on products. Qualifying minimum purchase must be made in a single transaction. Bonus offer applies to the total base reward miles earned on qualified purchase amount excluding taxes, prescriptions, tobacco, fluid dairy products, post office purchases, bus tickets and passes, gift certificates, gift cards, bottle deposits, bill payments, service fees and any other non-discountable items. Limit of 500 Bonus AIR MILES reward miles per Collector Account during promotion period. ‡Bonus AIR MILES offer is valid July 27-29 at all locations in Atlantic Canada when you present your Collector Card at the time of purchase. Offer not valid on online purchases. No coupon required. Valid for a minimum purchase of \$50 in a single transaction, net of refunds and exclusive of taxes, discounts, and gift card purchases. Offer cannot be combined with any other AIR MILES Bonus offer. This is an exclusive offer and is non-transferable. The Children's Place reserves the right to change or cancel the offer at any time. ‡‡Bonus AIR MILES reward miles available on selected products from July 27 – August 2, 2012 at NSLC Corporate stores. While quantities last. Offers subject to change without notice. See store or [www.mynslc.com](http://www.mynslc.com) for details. ®™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. Sponsor trademarks are owned by the respective Sponsor or authorized for their use in Canada.